

SEBALL 42

cover

الوقت الإلهي

# THE TIMES

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1998

No. 66,303



http://www.the-times.co.uk

EUROPEAN CITIES

£34

Balancing act that predicts your health

page 14

30

Plus APPOINTMENTS Plus NEW FILMS Spielberg's finest hour page 36

Party acts to purge Scottish sleaze

## Labour MP to fight his expulsion

By Shirley English and Roland Watson

TOMMY GRAHAM became the first MP in seven years to be expelled from his party last night as Labour acted to remove the taint of sleaze that has dogged it in Scotland.

Mr Graham, who has faced a series of misconduct allegations since the suicide of his colleague Gordon McMaster, was expelled after a bitter 14-month inquiry that gave the Scottish National Party the opportunity to catch Labour in the pail.

But Mr Graham, who has been a member of the party for 33 years and MP for Renfrewshire West since 1987, immediately made clear that he will prolong the party's embarrassment by challenging the decision in the courts. He emerged from the two-day hearing in Glasgow to say that he had already consulted his lawyers and intended to take the matter to judicial review. He also confirmed that he would resist all attempts to force him to resign as an MP.

"This is not the end of Tommy Graham," he said.

Labour's action was reminiscent of its tough stance in the Eighties when it took on Militant and far-left MPs. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said: "This decision shows that the Scottish Labour Party can and will act decisively to defend standards in public life."

Five charges had been brought against Mr Graham, 54, and the three-member National Constitutional Committee panel found him guilty on all of them.

The first two alleged that he had offered compromising pictures of a senior union official in return for information. He was also found guilty of maligning his neighbouring Paisley North MP, Irene Adams, and of membership irregularities in Ian Davidson's constituency of Glasgow Pollok in 1993. The fifth charge was brought under a catch-all rule that his conduct brought the party into disrepute.

But Mr Graham said that after 14 months of "hell" he was appalled by the decision. "I have been treated worse than a criminal. I believe today's decision was well forecast by me. I believed no matter what I said that at the end of the day I was going to be found guilty. Labour had too much to lose. There have been too many inquiries."

He insisted he had done nothing wrong and would be fighting on. "I have no intention of resigning. At the end of the day if this is justice, then God help the country."

But Jim Stevens, a former union official and one of the key witnesses against Mr Graham said: "Justice has been done. I went in their and told

the truth and I am delighted with the outcome. I cannot discuss the charges because the National Constitutional Committee has asked me not to. But it is terrific news."

Dan Sharpe, Mr Graham's constituency chairman also welcomed the expulsion and called on Mr Graham to reconsider his stated intention to remain as an MP.

The party may now, however, face a judicial review in which it will have to prove that the evidence it has against Mr Graham is watertight, and the memory of its failed attempt to oust the Glasgow Lord Provost Pat Lally will be fresh in people's minds. Mr Lally had his suspension lifted after a judicial review earlier this year.

Renfrewshire West is the Scottish National Party's tenth target seat and one which it could now win with a swing of just 10 per cent. The by-election in Paisley South last year, prompted by Mr McMaster's death, saw an 11 per cent swing to the SNP and Labour's majority cut to 10,000.

Mr Graham, who was suspended last August, is the first Scottish MP to be expelled by Labour and the first MP to be so disciplined since Dave Nellist and Terry Fields were expelled in December 1991 for being members of Militant



Tommy Graham waving from a window at the tribunal in Glasgow yesterday

## Democrats tell Clinton to say sorry over and over again

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON was told by fellow Democrats yesterday that he must apologise over and over again for the Monica Lewinsky affair, making his contrition clear to all Americans.

The warning was made to his face during an emotional meeting at the White House with eight Democratic leaders from the House of Representatives. Mr Clinton apologised for the pain he had caused his family and country over the affair, which is costing his party support in the run-up to the congressional elections in November.

At the same time, a sombre gathering of congressional leaders from both parties promised to explore impeachment proceedings without partisan trades or rancour.

Mr Clinton has recognised the worsening peril, brought on by the affair and his seven months of lying about it, since returning from his visits to Russia and Ireland last weekend. Yesterday he expressed his remorse. David Bonior, Democratic Whip, said that Mr Clinton felt it deeply and expressed it in an emotional way. "The President didn't cry, but you could tell by his demeanour that he felt the pain very strongly."

The eight forgave Mr Clinton, but advised him that he must emphasise to the American people his contrition. Further, he must do so more than once.

Mr Bonior said: "This is an issue that will be raised time and again through the weeks, perhaps even months. He needs to address it on a continuing basis with the concern he expressed today."

Yet Mr Bonior believed that Mr Clinton could continue as President because Americans make a distinction between his

moral behaviour, which they deplore, and his work as President, of which they generally approve.

The meeting did not discuss his resignation, nor a strategy for avoiding impeachment. Caution against any rush to judgment were voiced by five senior House Republicans and Democrats who agreed that Kenneth Starr's report on the Lewinsky affair — expected this week or next — must be judged on its facts and not political implications.

The report will be considered first by the House judiciary committee, which can hold hearings and recommend to the full House whether to impeach the President.

If a majority voted in favour, Mr Clinton could be tried by the Senate, which could convict him on the votes of 67 of the 100 senators. He could then be removed from office.

Henry Hyde, Republican chairman of the judiciary committee, contemplated his duties gloomily. He said: "No one looks forward to this traumatic journey we are about to embark on. We ask for God's help and blessing."

In the Senate, Robert Byrd, a senior Democrat, compared Mr Clinton's handling of the scandal to Richard Nixon's behaviour during Watergate, when the cover-up and obstruction of justice became more pressing grounds for impeachment than the original break-in of Democratic headquarters.

"Many of the mistakes that President Nixon made are being made all over again," he said before going on to complain about the lack of heroes in American politics. "Where are the nation's leaders to whom children can look and be inspired to work hard and live clean lives?" he asked.

## Welfare reform rescued

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

THE Government is to include substantial measures on welfare reform in the next session of Parliament as Tony Blair tries to counter claims that he has retreated from one of his central general election pledges.

Suggestions that the Prime Minister had decided that fundamental changes were too sensitive to push through in Labour's first Parliament were denied yesterday as it emerged that Alistair Darling had won a slot for a key Bill in the legislative timetable.

The Social Security Secretary has spent the summer working on proposals he inherited from Harriet Harman and Frank Field for a new

Mr Blair fathered new Labour's interest in the reconstruction of the welfare state. He must use this Cabinet to save his creation from premature death

Leading article, page 23

pensions system and disability benefits reform, and it is understood that one of them — most likely the latter — will feature in the Bill.

It had been suggested that Mr Darling's measures would be limited to splitting pension rights on divorce and reorganising the Contribu-

tions Agency. But an informed source told *The Times*: "The idea that we have suddenly gone soft on this could not be further from the truth. It will be a long process, but we will be carrying it on during the next year."

There will, however, be no ban on foxhunting for at least a year and Labour MPs have been told that there is little point in trying to achieve one through a private members' Bill, since it would be unlikely to get through both Houses.

They seem to have accepted ministers' argument that the measure would stand a much better chance once hereditary peers lose the right to vote — the key issue for the session that starts in November.

The Bill to ban hereditary Continued on page 2, col 5

## Cash-strapped Royal Opera cancels entire 1999 season

By Dalya Alberge, Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, stunned the arts world yesterday by announcing that there will be no opera performances in 1999.

The move is part of a radical rescue plan to put the house in order by the time redevelopment is completed in December next year.

The number of opera and ballet performances in the first full season in the new £214-million building will also be reduced by a third, to 220, to try to reduce a deficit that will otherwise top £25 million by 2000. "Every opera you put on loses money," Sir Colin Southgate, the chairman of the board, said.

The news provoked outrage among the 500 staff, who were also told that they must accept renegotiated working conditions and a reduced workforce by October 26 or face mass redundancy.

Peter Ainsworth, the Shadow Culture Secretary, was

among critics who expressed disbelief, not least since Covent Garden has received £78 million from the National Lottery. He said taxpayers would be "astounded that after multimillions of pounds of private and public money, we look like getting less opera and more subsidy."

One member of staff said that morale has been "horrible" for the past few weeks; now the mood had descended into "utter despondency". Another said the decision to penalise the performers was "absolutely shameful".

The board made its decision at a crisis meeting on Tuesday after securing support and further funding from Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, on Monday evening. After a tense 24 hours, the board felt it was left with no option.

Sir Colin said: "The days of fudging are long passed. The board is sad at the pain this will cause to our workforce, but only a total restructuring will achieve real results."

He insisted at a press conference that costs had to be cut to bring down ticket prices and ensure access for all, adding that renegotiating contracts did not necessarily involve a reduction in fees.

Restrictive practices, page 9  
Leading article, page 23

## BSkyB asks United fans for support

By Raymond Snoddy and Russell Jenkins

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting tried yesterday to head-off the protests of Manchester United fans by saying its £623.4 million takeover offer was "good for the club, for the players and for the fans."

An open letter to the fans signed by Mark Booth, chief executive of BSkyB, and Martin Edwards, chief executive of Manchester United, expressed the satellite group's appreciation that the club was not just another business but was "part of the cultural fabric of Manchester and the nation". That was why the current management would be left to run the club.

The letter was released before last night's emotional home game against Charlton at Old Trafford to put the case for the acquisition.

Until the offer was formally unveiled to the Stock Exchange yesterday morning, neither BSkyB, in which News International, parent group of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent

stake, nor the club were able to explain the rationale behind what is believed to be the world's highest bid for a sports club.

Newspaper polls among fans have been showing 95 per cent opposition to the deal.

The letter said the acquisition would create one of great partnerships in sport and would ensure that Manchester United maintained its position as "a leader in football".

In the letter and a press conference yesterday, Mr Booth promised that the present agreement between the Premier League and BSkyB, which runs until 2001, will be honoured. The satellite group will continue to broadcast 60 live games a season with each club appearing at least three times and the existing criteria will be used to

Continued on page 5, col 3

Alex Ferguson, page 21  
United premium, page 27  
Terms of offer, page 29

TV & RADIO ..... 50, 51  
WEATHER ..... 26  
CROSSWORDS ..... 26, 52  
LETTERS ..... 23  
OBITUARIES ..... 25  
ANATOLE KALETSKY 22  
ARTS ..... 36-39  
CHESS & BRIDGE ..... 47  
COURT & SOCIAL ..... 24  
BUSINESS ..... 27-33  
BOOKS ..... 40, 41  
LAB REPORT ..... 42

Sending The Times overseas

Australia \$20, Belgium 8 Ffr 100, Canada 23.50, Denmark Dkr 18.00, Cyprus £11.50, Finland Fmk 30.50, France Ffr 14.00, Germany DM 4.50, Gibraltar 90c, Greece Dr 750, Netherlands F 1.80, Italy L 2.50, Luxembourg F 3.50, Macedonia Mkd 500, Malta M 25.00, Portugal Esc 300, Spain Ptas 125, Sweden Sfr 25.00, Switzerland Sfr 5.00, Tunisia Din 200, USA \$15.50.

Periodicals postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Times c/o Mercury International, 365 Blair Road, Avenel, NJ 07001.



You're paying too much for your life cover.

(What? no one's told you?)

You may be paying well over the odds for your fixed term or mortgage protection life cover, and one quick phone call to Direct Line could change all that.

Male 35 next birthday non-smoker — monthly premiums.

Sum assured	£100,000	Per Annum	Total paid over 20 year term	Saving with 20 year term	Direct Line
Direct Line	£202.20	£4044.00	—	—	—
Abbey National Life	£272.64	£5452.80	£1408.80	—	—
Nationwide Life	£294.00	£5880.00	£1836.00	—	—

Source: Life and Pensions MoneyFacts — July 1998

0845 3000 233 DIRECT LINE

Weekdays 9am-5pm and Saturdays 9am-5pm

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

# Government wants decision to avert Millennium bug chaos

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT  
WHITEHALL EDITOR

SENIOR Ministers are pressing world aviation authorities for a speedy decision on whether aircraft will fly during the Millennium celebrations on December 31 next year and January 1, 2000.

possibility of computers being thrown into chaos by the Millennium bug. The problem has arisen because many computer systems use only two digits to identify the year and might read the new year as 00 or 1900, causing systems to malfunction.

there is sufficient parking space for planes grounded in Britain. The Government is also working closely with the United States to assure the safety of international defence and security systems.

Anderson, the Prime Minister's special adviser on the Millennium bug, gave a presentation to senior ministers just before the parliamentary recess. Ministers were told to ensure they understood the efforts being made within their own departments and also to keep check on progress of public organisations and agencies within their responsibility.

They were reminded that in the case of emergency and vital services that standby systems were in place to cope with any computer problems.

Priority areas for the Government are the NHS, local authorities, the emergency services, the BBC, the Bank of England, the Environment Agency, British Nuclear Fuels, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Post Office.

half of all Government departments and agencies were half way through inspection work on their computer systems. They were also keeping within the £400 million budget set for the work.

## Union boss says strikes are likely on public pay

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE leader of one of Britain's biggest trade unions is warning Tony Blair that public-sector workers are likely to take strike action if their pay is squeezed again this year.

As trade unionists flex their muscles in advance of their annual congress in Blackpool next week, John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB general workers' union and this year's President of the TUC, says that industrial action is a "strong possibility" if the cry for better pay rates is continually ignored.

Generally, the TUC and individual union leaders have kept their arguments with the Government behind closed doors, despite tough negotiations over the minimum wage and trade-union rights. But in an article in the *New Statesman*, Mr Edmonds argues that the Government's decision to continue with the Conservative policy of holding down public-sector pay was not only damaging to public service workers but could destroy Mr Blair's policy of delivering quality services.

Industrial action doesn't arise from one year's grievance," he says. "It arises from a rising sense of grievance and frustration, a feeling that we can't do anything else about it except industrial

action. There is a Greek tragedy element to all of this. It really does look as if we are heading towards big trouble and it's going to be disruptive for everybody. We're not looking for a fight, but the members feel they are being pushed into a corner."

Union leaders raised the issue of public sector pay with Mr Blair at Downing Street this week, when they pressed him to change tack over economic policy and protect jobs. Rodney Bickerstaff, General Secretary of Union, the public-services union, warned Mr Blair of the dangers of using the suppression of public-sector pay as an economic lever.

However, Mr Blair made clear that he would not be blown off course and held out little prospect of pay rises. Gordon Brown stressed earlier this year that he intended to hold down public-sector pay to near inflation levels.

Yesterday the British Medical Association put in a claim for 10 per cent for doctors, and nurses are also arguing for significant salary hikes. Two years ago Stephen Byers, then shadow employment minister, said the link between unions and Labour would be severed if they carried out a spate of industrial action over pay.



Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, centre, was made an Honorary Peary King yesterday for his contribution to charities over 20 years

## Prisoners' watchdog attacks suspension

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER close colleague of the Home Secretary's wife and his policy adviser is refusing to accept his suspension as a prisoners' watchdog over alleged "rudeness, arrogance and self-deeming superiority".

Brian Bridges, a retired civil servant, has challenged a decision by Lord Williams of Mostyn, the Prisons Minister, to suspend him as a member of the Board of Visitors at Bullingdon prison in Oxfordshire. Mr Bridges, a former Under Secretary at the Health Department, is querying the legal basis for the minister's action. Mr

Bridges, 61, said the minister did not seem to know under what power he was suspending him.

A national spokesman for the Boards of Visitors said that Mr Bridges had been suspended "until further notice". He said that a government inquiry was being set up to investigate disputes on the Board.

Mr Bridges was employed at the Department of Health and Social Services where Alice Perkins, the Home Secretary's civil servant wife, Lord Warner, his senior policy adviser, and Mr Straw himself also worked. In

a letter seen by *The Times* which he sent to Joyce Quin, the former Prisons Minister, in July, he said: "I know Jack and was a close colleague of Alice for many years and to Lord Warner... I am sure they will give me a bit for honesty and truthfulness."

He was suspended last week after months of criticism and dispute on the Board which ended with the acting chairman resigning and other members threatening to leave if Mr Bridges was allowed to stay in post. The former chairman resigned in December 1997 after complaining that Mr Bridges had

been "rude and aggressive" to her. Lord Williams was warned that unless action was taken the Board would have so few members that it would be unable to carry out its duties.

Delbert Sandiford, director of Boards of Visitors, wrote to Lord Williams and said the difficulty appeared to lie with Mr Bridges' conduct. "Comments made by Board members about Mr Bridges refer to his arrogance, rudeness, self-deemed superiority and at least two female members of the Board said they felt threatened by his presence."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Father's win over the CSA

A father-of-two has won a year-long battle with the Child Support Agency over a demand for £21,000 which he said drove him to the edge of suicide. When it deducted £116 a week from the wages of Tony Levene, 40, an information officer for Kirkcaldy Council social services, he said it left him with insufficient money to feed himself or pay bills. He threatened to seek a judicial review in the High Court. Yesterday he said: "The CSA has admitted it was wrong." He has paid maintenance to his ex-wife for his two sons under a 1992 divorce court settlement, but a year ago the CSA claimed arrears going back to 1993. A CSA spokesman said it was unable to discuss individual cases.

#### 3 bodies found

Police are searching for Peter Hall, the boyfriend of a woman found dead in her cottage with her two children aged eight and 16 months. The three bodies were found by police in bedrooms in a house in Egerton, Lancashire. The dead woman was named locally as Celeste Bates, who was a nurse. She was believed to be separated from her husband Ian, who lives abroad.

#### Bodies exhumed

Police investigating a Manchester doctor accused of murdering a patient are to exhumate the bodies of two more patients. Harold Shipman, 52, was remanded in custody on Tuesday accused of the murder of Kathleen Grundy, 81. He was also charged with attempted deception by falsifying a £300,000 will in Mrs Grundy's name and making himself the sole beneficiary.

#### And finally

Some of the most distinguished names in British broadcasting, including Sir George Russell, the former chairman of the Independent Television Commission, have united to condemn ITV's plan to move *News at Ten*. In a letter to *The Times*, eight leading broadcasters and regulators say that "to scrap it would be an abdication of ITV's responsibilities to the public". Letters, page 23

#### Mr Memory

Police believe they have identified a man who dialled 999 after losing his memory. The man, who said he had no recollection of who he was or where he came from, was recognised after his photograph was published in newspapers, including *The Times*. The man, who was found near Poole in Dorset, was reported missing from a nursing home on September 2. He has no immediate family.

#### Baby menace

Dennis the Menace, the *Beano* character with a face club of 1.5 million, is about to get a baby brother or sister. This week's issue shows Dennis's mother being driven at high speed to a maternity hospital. *Beano* said: "We get scores of letters each week about Dennis and his Alesianian wire-haired lap-hound Gnasher. The arrival of a new character will turn everything upside-down."

**LAURA ASHLEY HOME**

15% off

MADE TO MEASURE  
**Curtains & Blinds**

AVAILABLE IN OVER 200 FABRICS

OFFER ENDS  
SATURDAY 26th SEPTEMBER 1998

Subject to fabric availability and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.  
Call 0990 620119 for details of our nearest Laura Ashley store.

## Welfare reform to go ahead

Continued from page 1  
peers' voting rights — the first part of a two-stage reform of the House of Lords — will be at the heart of the Queen's Speech, which will be finalised today when ministers meet at Chequers to plan the political strategy for the year.

There have been suggestions that because the Bill will be so fiercely fought in the Lords, with the inevitable bitterness carrying over into the consideration of other legislation, that Mr Blair has ordered that other measures be kept to a minimum.

But Bills certain to be approved today include one on trade union recognition; a criminal justice Bill to stop rape victims being cross-examined by defendants; a Bill lowering the age of homosexual consent to 16, and another to scrap GP fund-holding.

Campaigners against fox-hunting will again have to wait, although ministers had been considering using other Bills as a vehicle for a clause giving people a chance to hold local referendums banning the pursuit in their areas. Michael Foster, whose Bill ran out of time earlier this year, has had two meetings with Jack Straw to discuss options and is now drawing up a paper to present to the Home Secretary.

Mary Ann Sieghart, page 22

## IVF clinic offers 'no baby, no fee' treatment deal

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHILDLESS couples are being offered a money-back guarantee by a fertility clinic that has started Britain's first "no baby, no fee" service.

The payment scheme has just been introduced by the Exeter Fertility Clinic, with the idea that couples who have a baby quickly after the IVF treatment subsidise those who try for one repeatedly without success.

The clinic charges £1,668 for one IVF treatment cycle, and the couple have to provide their own drugs in addition to this. The drugs bill is between £500 and £800 for each cycle, but some patients are able to obtain them from the NHS on prescription.

Over the past two years the clinic has completed 243 treatment cycles leading to 23 live births and 16 pregnancies. The 16 per cent success rate means that one woman becomes pregnant there for each six IVF treatment cycles that are carried out — a rate close to the national average. The new "no baby, no fee" service is therefore being offered for £9,800, equivalent to six treatments.

Couples will also have to provide the drugs needed each

time. Joining the new funding scheme is optional. Couples will still be able to pay for treatments individually if they prefer. IVF treatment is not available in the area on the NHS.

Jonathon West, the consultant in charge of the clinic, said that the new formula should encourage couples not to give up trying to have the baby they want because of the cost.

"If a woman becomes pregnant after the first cycle the couple will obviously be paying a lot more, but at least they will have the joy of having the baby they want," he said.

"However since it takes an average of nine cycles of treatment to produce a 70 per cent chance of success, the one-off payment will work out more cheaply for many couples. It will mean that those who have tried repeatedly without success will be able to go on trying for a baby without having to find a lot more money."

A couple would get their money back once they decided to give up. "If they don't have a baby to take home with them, then we will charge them nothing," Mr West said.

## Straw proposes 'fathers' unions'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary is to encourage the formation of "dads' groups" where fathers can meet to discuss their feelings and share their problems.

Addressing the Mothers' Union in London, Jack Straw said that self-help or support groups for fathers could form a valuable part of the Government's plans to help people bringing up children, and to strengthen family life. "We need to encourage positive male role models and promote the key role of fathers within families," he said.

Outlining the Government's plans to tackle family breakdown and to set up a National Family and Parenting Institute, Mr Straw, who is also chair of the Cabinet's working group on the family, said he had been impressed by the work

of a church-led "dads' group" in his constituency of Blackburn.

"There is a need for fathers to be more open about their feelings, including their feelings about being a father. As men are very secretive about problems in their personal relationships and about problems they may face as a parent, it is particularly true of our culture that we do not share parenting problems," he said.

Encouraging fathers to overcome their reluctance to share their personal problems and successes with others in their situation could help overcome this. The Home Secretary said that many young men today left school with no qualifications and little hope of a job. With many families headed by single mothers, the increase in the number of

women teachers, and the decline in apprenticeships in manufacturing industry, such young men often lacked positive male role models.

These men, who frequently underperformed at school, posed a deep-seated problem, most graphically illustrated in the emergence of "laddish culture". When it came to exercising their responsibilities as fathers, these men often failed, Mr Straw said.

As well as "dads' groups, other possible solutions to this problem included: Workfare-to-Work projects and "mentoring" projects, where older volunteers — usually professionals with a stable family life — provide one-to-one support to a troubled youngster in their area who may have no father figure in his family.

THE TIMES  
Business  
sues e  
over 10



# Businessman sues ex-lover over lost £1.6m

By JOANNA BALE

A BUSINESSMAN who claims his former lover stole £1.6 million from him told the High Court yesterday that she had beguiled him into trusting her with his money.

Gary Grande, 58, who was born in America, said that Jacquelin Samuelson pretended she came from a rich English family and was financially independent, but when he asked her to invest £1.6 million of his money as a nominal shareholder of one of his companies, she began diverting it to her own account — and to her new lover, a chartered accountant.

Mr Grande, a former Las Vegas nightclub singer, was said by Mrs Samuelson to have been "besotted and infatuated" with her. She maintains that he was terrified she would leave him and gave her the money as either a gift or as part of a tax-avoidance scheme. Her counsel, Jonathan Goldberg, QC, referred to the multimillionaire's "somewhat bizarre sexual practices", suggesting that Mr Grande "would have had difficulty finding a woman so accommodating as she was".

Mrs Samuelson, 40, of Hampstead, North London,

claimed that she was tricked into signing a declaration that she would hold shares in trust for Mr Grande, and that in any event the £1.6 million was a spontaneous gift that had surprised her.

When she transferred about £250,000 to her account in England and gave a similar sum to her new lover, Mr Grande obtained court orders freezing her English and Swiss accounts.

Mrs Samuelson was introduced to Mr Grande by a friend in January last year at a hotel in Knightridgeway, where he was staying while undergoing hernia surgery. She frequently volunteered her company during his convalescence and slept with him virtually every night from the day of his operation until he flew home.

When he told her he was not in a close relationship because a former girlfriend had stolen from him, she sympathised and expressed her opinion that theft by trusted friends was a dastardly act which she could not imagine engaging in.

Mr Grande said Mrs Samuelson told him she owned her impressive flat in

Hampstead with her father, the cinematographer David Samuelson, who had set up a trust for her. She spoke of her father's achievements and those of her uncle, Sir Sydney Samuelson. In fact, as he learnt later, she was not a blood relative. She had married Mr Samuelson's son Paul, but they had been divorced for years.

Mr Grande said Mrs Samuelson had suggested marriage to him. This was a bigamous proposal because she had since admitted she was already married.

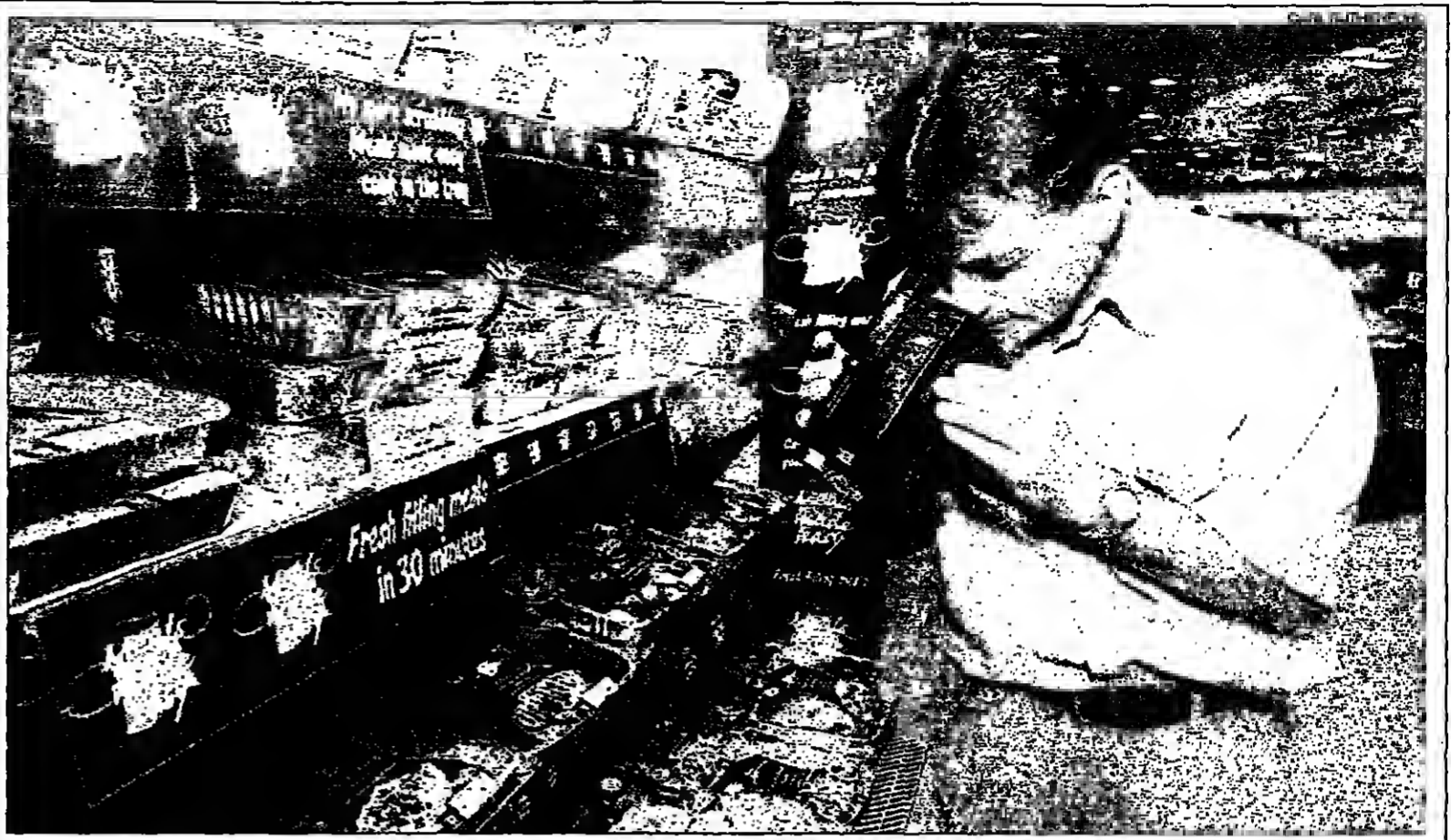
Mrs Samuelson claimed that as he became infatuated with her, Mr Grande's behaviour became increasingly bizarre. He insisted she did not reveal too much of her body, accused her of having an affair and stealing his car, and locked her out of his house when she was ill. "Rubbish," replied Mr Grande.

Mr Barklem: "She says she never had sexual intercourse with you and you were unable to have normal sex, but she slept with you in the same bed and tried to comfort your physical needs as best she could."

Mr Grande: "My sexual function is completely normal. I have had sexual intercourse with the defendant on many occasions, including occasions despite my pain [from the hernia operation]."

Mr Barklem: "She says you told her you would like to watch her having sexual relations with other women." Mr Grande: "I don't believe I have made such suggestions. This person has constructed this immense tissue of lies, clearly to embarrass me."

Mr Grande is suing Mrs Samuelson for the return of £1.6 million. The case continues.



Joni Aptula shooting the holiday video without peer or pier: "We have nothing like this. It's so clean and white and very, very big"

## Well-stacked shelves: a star is born

By PAUL WILKINSON

HOLIDAY videos have never provided the most gripping viewing. But a Bulgarian waiter's efforts from his trip to Britain is probably the least likely ever to win an Oscar.

Joni Aptula has made a 30-minute recording of the Asda supermarket in Hartlepool to show his friends. Mr Aptula, who speaks six languages, said: "We have nothing like this where I come from. It's so clean and white and very, very big."

The thousands of different goods on offer was the highlight of his visit. He recorded the visit on film, certain no one back home would believe him otherwise.

Mr Aptula's jaw had already dropped soon after he landed at Manchester Airport at the start of his month-long trip. He could not understand why sheep and

cows were left in the fields at night in Bulgaria they would have been stolen.

He said: "Everything is so big. We have no brick houses in Bulgaria, everything is just plaster and plastic. This is a wonderful country and I can't wait to show my family the film I have made. They will be amazed."

He has also toured Hartlepool's marina, visited Goathland in North Yorkshire, the setting of the television series *Heartbeat*, and watched two Hartlepool United soccer matches and met the players. He said: "England is a beautiful country and Hartlepool is a lovely town and I've been made very welcome."

Planning the trip was fraught with unusual difficulties. He is staying with Iris Horsley, 56, and her partner Jimmy Gettings, 58, whom he met four years ago when they

visited the Black Sea resort of Albena. They returned to the region every summer and struck up a friendship with Mr Aptula, his wife Sevdie and their two children.

The couple paid his £300 air fare after Mr Aptula, who earns £35 a month, said he intended to hitch-hike the 2,000-mile journey. They also had to provide the Bulgarian authorities with written proof that they could afford to look after him and he then had to queue day and night for three days for a visa.

Ms Horsley, a child-minder, said: "It has been a total culture shock for Joni. He has been overawed by everything and when we walked into Asda his face lit up. In his country he might buy bread, cheese and meat from a local shop but everything else is grown on the land. He has had a job taking

everything in. He will go home with a lot of cherished memories but his video at Asda is one of the most unusual ones."

Maurice Goldsbrough, deputy manager of the Asda store, said: "Mr Aptula's request to film our shelves was the most unusual we have ever had but we were satisfied he wasn't a spy from one of our competitors. We were happy to show Joni around but sadly we have no plans to open an Asda in Bulgaria just yet."

To most Britons the attractions of Hartlepool (pop 100,000) are limited. Once a big shipbuilding, steel and fishing centre, the town's biggest employer is now the local council. Tourist attractions include the £200 million historic quay and marina complex on the site of the old shipyards. It is also home to



Aptula: "No one at home would believe it"

HMS *Trincomelee*, believed to be the oldest floating warship in the world, restored to its original condition. Hartlepool's nuclear power station, one of the first of its kind in Britain, is also open to visitors.



Grande: a former Las Vegas nightclub singer



Samuelson: said Grande was besotted with her

## Wheelie bin given a parking ticket

By SIMON DE BRUKELLES

A TRAFFIC warden who issued a parking ticket to a wheelie bin was the toast of colleagues yesterday. But David Hughes' over-enthusiasm did not impress the bin's owner, who said he would rather go to prison than pay the £15 fine.

The wheelie bin was taken by children from outside a wine bar in Pontypridd, South Wales, and abandoned in a nearby municipal car park. Mr Hughes noticed the bin was not showing the required pay-and-display ticket despite occupying a parking space, and booked it.

Jeff Skinner, 56, the wine bar's owner, said yesterday: "I was furious when I saw

the ticket but I can see the funny side now. I'm baffled that anyone can think a wheelie bin looks like a car. The warden needs his eyes tested."

His wife, Angela Skinner, 51, who helps to run Jefferson's Bar, said: "I've heard of people having a 'jobs' attitude but this takes the biscuit. We pay £6,500 a year in rates to the council, yet they have a cheek to give us a £15 parking ticket. We would rather go to jail than pay up."

However, the Skinners are unlikely to end up in prison. Council officials admitted that a ticket issued to a wheelie

bin was unlikely to be taken seriously. David Sherrard, assistant director of highways at Rhondda Cynoo Taff Council, said: "Clearly tickets cannot be issued for things like wheelie bins and we won't proceed with this."

He added: "I suppose it is a bit unusual to issue a ticket for a bin. There have been problems with bins in the past being left in the car park spaces. The warden issued the ticket in frustration."

A colleague of Mr Hughes said yesterday: "Dave is very conscientious and dedicated to his job, but he has had a few leg pulls over this."

## Beans mean jail for angry husband

A MAN who pelted his wife with tins of baked beans during a row in a crowded supermarket has been jailed for four years. Joseph Coyne kept up a bombardment for 15 minutes as his wife Alison tried to shelter in a storeroom.

He fled when other shoppers began to return fire with cans of dog food but, as he ran from the store, Coyne hit the shopkeeper in the face, wrestled a woman police officer to the ground and rammed to a patrol car as he drove off. His wife, aged 30, was left with

cuts, bruises and two broken fingers after the incident at the Spa store in Kenfig Hill near Bridgend, South Wales.

Martin Kelly, prosecuting at Cardiff Crown Court, said that Coyne had been drinking and attacked his wife, a mother of three, during discussions about a separation. After the talk in her car grew heated, she fled into the supermarket.

"The couple had been together for 10 years but their marriage was somewhat stormy," he said.

"They were separated for

three weeks and had met up to talk about money. When he began attacking her, she fled into the storeroom but he broke down her barricade.

"He threw the tins so hard the cans were all found to be bent and crushed afterwards."

When shoppers came to the rescue and threw tins at him, he ran away. A police officer arrived and arrested him, but he wrestled himself free just as she was taking out her CS gas spray and baton. Mr Kelly said: "On the way out, he punched the shop owner in the

face and tried to make a quick escape in his wife's car. A police car intercepted him, but he rammed it. Two officers were later treated for whiplash.

Coyne, a roofer from Porthcawl, admitted assault, actual bodily harm, wounding with intent, dangerous driving, driving with excess alcohol and aggravated vehicle taking. Speaking in his defence, Raymond Lewis said: "He completely lost control. He had a cocktail of problems on a day of madness."

J.P. TOD'S BOUTIQUE: 35-36, Strand, SW1, London. Tel: 0171 225 1131. Harrod's and Josoph

Others' union

The car's whiskers: Sprite



# Armchair fans in line for the best seats

TV coverage means more of the 100m-strong Red Army will see games, reports Daniel McGrory

UNITED boast that they are the best-supported club on earth. There are an 100 million members of the Red Army, but 98 per cent of them have never seen a game at Old Trafford and nor are they likely to.

While home-grown fans voiced their protests outside the stadium last night before the game against Charlton, many of their overseas supporters welcomed the takeover.

Nieran Dunleavy, president of the 500-strong Victorian Manchester United Supporters' Club in Australia, said: "This might not make me popular in the UK, but for us in Australia it is a good move. It means we can watch United on television."

"I admit I'm seeing it in a selfish way, but it is not just Australians who have trouble seeing the team play. Further televising of Manchester United will ensure that a generation of young kids will be able to watch them play."

"At the moment, there are only 55,000 seats at Old Trafford and even local fans can't get in."

Around four million people in Britain claim allegiance to the Reds and yet only a fraction of them ever get a ticket to see a home game. The capacity at Old Trafford is to be raised to 67,400 in the next two years, but it would take more than three seasons for every British fan to get a seat.

If every fan worldwide queued up for their chance, it would take more than 50 years for them each to see one game.

There are more than 200 branches of the supporters' club in 24 countries and United will not recognise any more because they admit they cannot meet the worldwide demand for match tickets.

There are registered clubs in Kenya, South Africa, India, Malaysia, Malta, Hong Kong, Japan, Mauritius, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Germany, Canada and the United States among others and the potential revenue from worldwide

television is "incalculable", according to marketing experts.

President Mandela is said to be a fan and asked to see them when United played in South Africa and there are 17,000 unofficial websites devoted to the club. In Switzerland, 3,000 fans a day call up a website called Swiss Devils.

There is a bar in Turkey dedicated to United, a club in India calling itself by the same name and there are 31 branches of its supporters' club in Ireland alone. There are 35,000 devotees in Mauritius and the replica red shirt is an international fashion item. No other sporting club sells more strips than United.

The purists complain that most who claim to be United fans know nothing about the club. The words "Manchester United" are often the only English that many from overseas can manage, and the joke is that most exiled fans are so out of touch they still think Bobby Charlton is playing.

A recent survey in the fanzine revealed a substantial number of foreign fans had no idea that the club played somewhere outside London.

The official magazine tries to rectify such ignorance by selling 118,000 copies in more than 30 countries.

Marketing executives predict that if United tap their worldwide support with merchandising and "season ticket TV" deals, BSKyB could recoup the money it has paid inside a season.

Digital television means fans around the world should be able to watch every home match.

In Scandinavia, there are said to be more United fans than for any one local club, and the worry is that attendance would suffer in many countries if supporters had the chance to watch Beckham, Giggs and Co from their armchairs.

Features, page 21  
Business, page 27, 29  
United front, page 52



Martin Edwards and Mark Booth, chief executives of Manchester United and BSKyB, said the deal was "good for the club, players and fans"

## BSkyB appeals for fans' support on bid

Continued from page 1  
select the games. The deal will be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, which has 20 days for an initial investigation, but can ask for a further 15-day extension.

It is the OFT's job to decide whether to recommend that Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, should refer the deal for a full investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Mr Booth, who thought of buying Manchester United in June, said BSKyB had a profound belief in the enduring and increasing popularity of football.

Although no one was saying so yesterday, the deal is largely a defensive move for BSKyB in case it loses a case that opens in the Restrictive Practices Court in January. The court has the power to strike out the existing

television rights deals between BSKyB, the BBC and the Premier League on the grounds that collective bargaining for television rights by the League is against the public interest.

BSkyB plans to join the BBC and the League in vigorously defending the television rights agreements before the court.

As the controversy developed, it emerged that Mr Edwards had been assigned bodyguards by the club's head of security, Ned Kelly, to provide him with 24-hour protection in case he faced violence from disgruntled fans. The club hopes the future can be defused by writing to holders of season tickets promising that the team will not change or dilute its traditions or heritage in order to fall into line with the satellite station's schedules.

Mr Edwards, who will make

£84 million from the deal, said: "I do not think I have ever been popular with the fans over the years for whatever I have done. When I took it over, Manchester United was valued at £2 million. Today it is £625 million. Look at the stadium and look at the team in 1980 when I took it over. Considering all the things I have done, I don't think there are many pats on the back."

"But all I'll say to [the fans] is that before they string me up, give me a chance. I am not about to do anything that destroys the tradition and health of this club. If I do, I deserve to be strung up."

Andy Walsh, chairman of the Independent Manchester United Supporters' Association, said: "We have made our views known and it is now up to the fans to show they are not going to

stand idly by and let the club be ripped from our grasp." The association, which claims to speak for ordinary fans, plans to hold a rally next Tuesday. Mr Walsh added: "Once and for all, they should ensure fans have a say in the way the game is run. This club is not to be sold like some secondhand Jag by Martin Edwards and his cohorts on the board."

Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary, has been cleared to make the final ruling on BSKyB's proposed takeover of Manchester United. Lawyers at the DTI together with Michael Scholar, the department's permanent secretary, have advised Mr Mandelson that he faces no conflict of interest because of links with BSKyB and the family of Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation.

## Give deal a chance to work, urges Busby Babe

By JOHN GOODBODY  
SPORTS NEWS  
CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Manchester United's greatest fullbacks yesterday urged the club's fans to give the takeover a chance to succeed. Bill Foulkes, a former England player and one of the Busby Babes, who became a key member of the first English team to win the European Cup in 1968, described the deal as "progress".

He said: "Let us hope Sky comes up with the goods. You have got to give the deal a chance. The deal gives Alex Ferguson all the money he needs to buy the best players and to carry on and further develop our youth team."

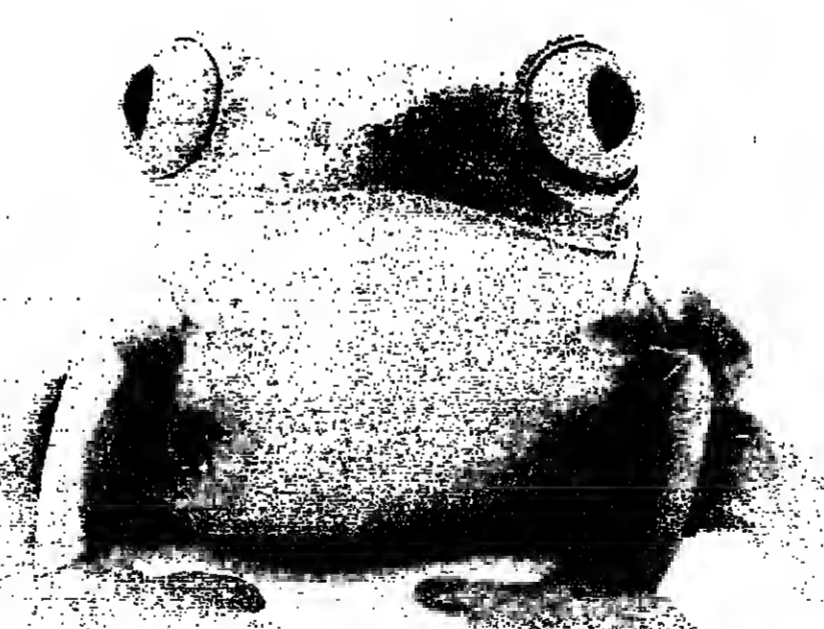
One of his contemporaries, Paddy Crerand, said that he was concerned about the supporters. "All I want to know is how it is going to affect the fans. They want to know if Rupert Murdoch is going to sign the best players in the world, surely if he is spending all this money he will want United to be the top club."

Alex Stepney, the goalkeeper for the 1968 team, was less enthusiastic. He said he believed people would be disillusioned "because it feels like the club is being lost to the money men".



Bill Foulkes: Manager can buy best players

RIVETS



WHATEVER YOU WANT, WHEREVER YOU ARE.  
www.yell.co.uk

YELLOW PAGES

STARTING IN THE SATURDAY TIMES  
**Iris: a memoir**



Alzheimer sufferers are not always gentle

"She does not know she has written 27 remarkable novels, as well as her books on philosophy... become a Dame of the British Empire"

JOHN BAYLEY'S MOVING STORY OF HIS LIFE WITH IRIS MURDOCH

# Employers pay out £300m over stress at work

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 400 legal actions against employers are being brought as a result of stress suffered by workers, according to the latest figures from the TUC.

Last year trade unions won about £300 million for their members, with stress topping the list as the cause of the legal disputes, according to a survey, *TU Trends*, focus on union legal services.

A rise in stress cases among members was reported by 22 per cent of trade unions, and 459 cases are in progress. The majority of stress actions — which are personal injury claims — are settled before they reach court.

In one case, the widow of a Union member who was driven to suicide by stress at work received £25,000 in an out-of-court settlement from North East Essex Mental Health NHS Trust. The man

had been subjected to a "vindictive, oppressive, ruthless and macho style of management", Unison said.

His managers had been aware that he was suicidal, but had done nothing about it. The award made legal history because it was the first time a widow had received a settlement for suicide caused by stress at work.

Trade unions brought a total of 3,346 cases to employment tribunals in 1997. Just over half related to unfair dismissal. The year before, that figure was 90 per cent.

Some 14 per cent related to unlawful wage deductions, 11 per cent to redundancy and 10 per cent to breach of contract. Claims over sex, race and disability discrimination amounted to 8 per cent.

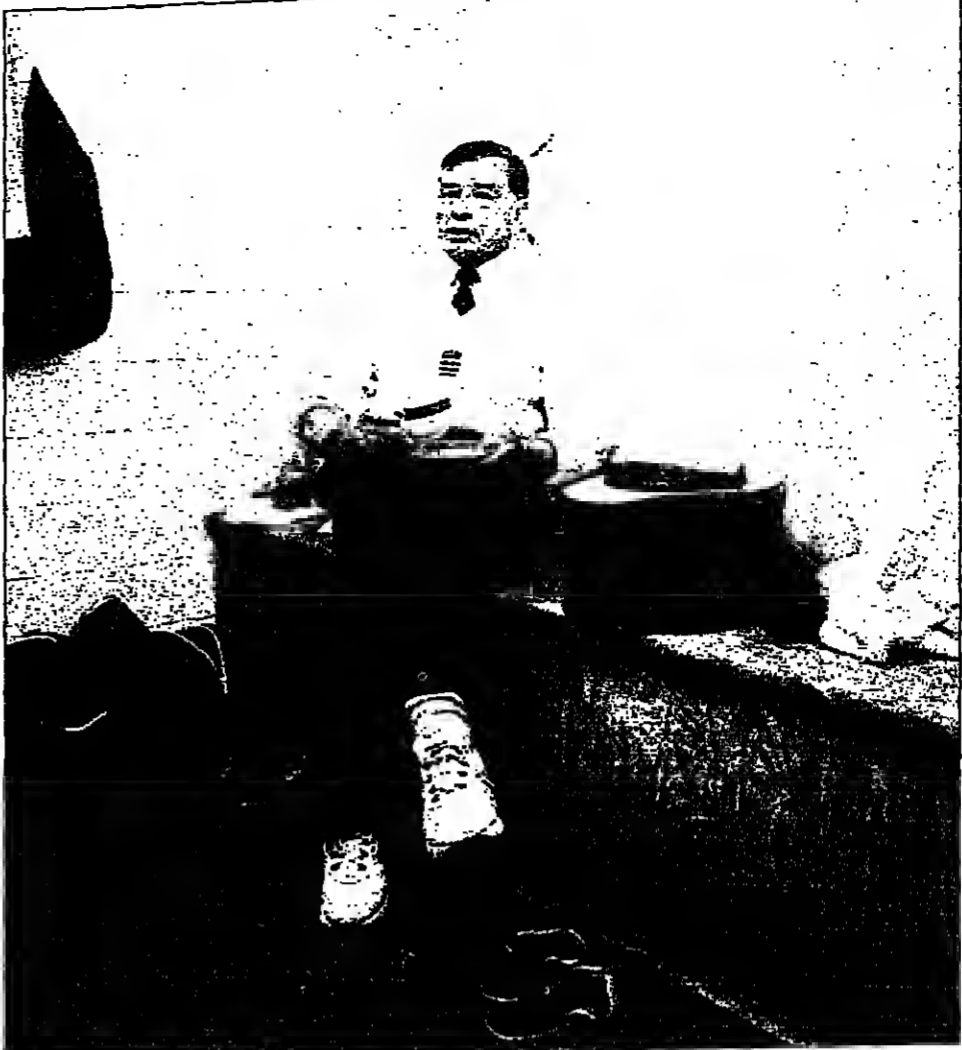
Both repetitive strain injury and assaults on staff are also on the increase. Most personal

injury awards won by unions, 72 per cent, were between £1,000 and £15,000.

The survey also found that more unions are providing general legal services outside the workplace — 14 provide free will-writing services, 25 provide legal help after road accidents, seven provide medical negligence services and 13 offer helplines.

John Monks, TUC general secretary, said: "We provide the safety net for working people who cannot afford their own lawyer, cannot rely on legal aid and cannot otherwise obtain justice."

In 1997, unions employed 149 staff to work only on legal matters. The survey points out, however, that they are cost-efficient for their members. Unions spent £15 million on legal services, which was 5 per cent of the personal injury damages they secured.



Dickie Bird waits to start his final match. "It's very emotional but you can't stop time"

## Rain delays play as Bird retires with half-century

By PAUL WILKINSON

DICKIE BIRD'S dislike of rain is legendary among cricket followers. To their great disgust, the umpire was notorious for calling the players off at the slightest sign of dampness on a bowler's brow.

So there was a gentle irony yesterday among spectators at Headingley when the last first-class match he will control was delayed by a down-pour. "This is typical Dickie Bird weather," said one as ground staff hurriedly pulled the covers over the wicket.

Yorkshire-born Mr Bird is bowing out where his career began 50 years ago to the day. Spectators much older than his 65 years queued for his autograph as he waited for the rain to stop for Yorkshire's county championship match against Warwickshire.

Elaine Smith, 68, summed up the crowd's extraordinary rapport with him. "It's become a bit of a joke that the crowd blame Dickie whenever it rains. But he's been a great ambassador for the game and it will be a very emotional occasion for him today. He's given his life to the game. It will probably be the first time that tears stopped play."

Mr Bird said there was a

lump in his throat as he unpacked his famous white coat for the last time. "I'm very sad. It's very emotional but you can't stop time. It's the law of the English Cricket Board that umpires have to retire at 65. I'll really miss the players, the laughing, joking and the banter.

"Headingley is where it all started for me when I first came as a boy of 15 for my first practices with Yorkshire. And this is where it is all going to end. I've got happy memories that I will treasure for the rest of my life."

His routine was the same as usual, arriving on the stroke of 8am. "This match is extra-special but I still get the same adrenalin rush when I walk out to the wicket now that I did 50 years ago."

He said that he had been honoured to play alongside greats such as Fred Trueman, but his greatest moment was receiving the MBE from the Queen. "That MBE means more to me than my life. I'm so proud of it."

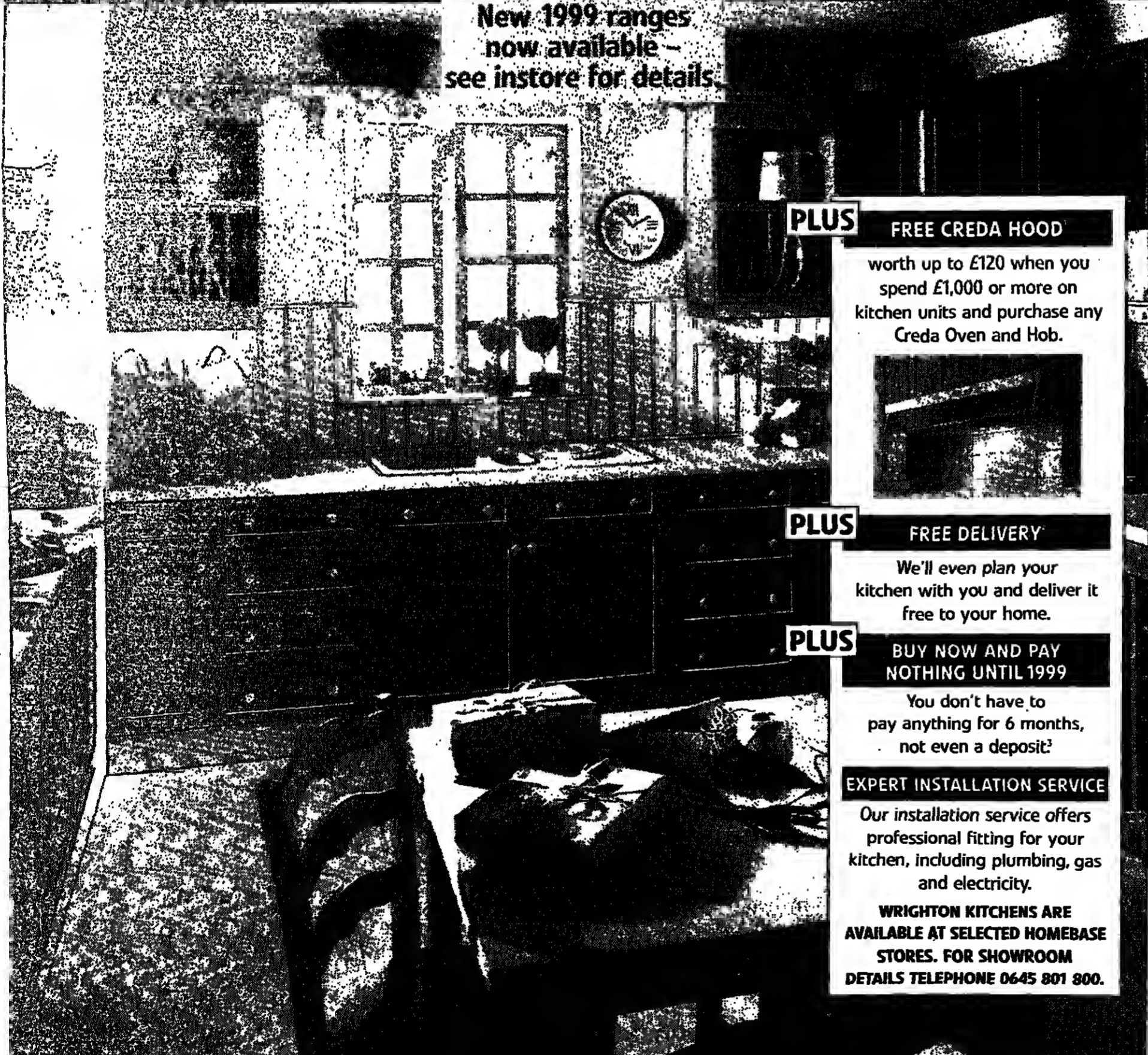
He will watch the game for fun and hopes to find some role in its organisation. "I want to help in some way."

County cricket, page 49

# UP TO 50% OFF SELECTED WRIGHTON KITCHENS.\*

(OFFER ENDS 22ND SEPTEMBER.)

New 1999 ranges now available - see instore for details.



**PLUS FREE CREDA HOOD**  
worth up to £120 when you spend £1,000 or more on kitchen units and purchase any Creda Oven and Hob.

**PLUS FREE DELIVERY**  
We'll even plan your kitchen with you and deliver it free to your home.

**PLUS BUY NOW AND PAY NOTHING UNTIL 1999**  
You don't have to pay anything for 6 months, not even a deposit!

**EXPERT INSTALLATION SERVICE**  
Our installation service offers professional fitting for your kitchen, including plumbing, gas and electricity.

**WRIGHTON KITCHENS ARE AVAILABLE AT SELECTED HOMEBASE STORES. FOR SHOWROOM DETAILS TELEPHONE 0645 801 800.**

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE

# HOMEBASE

www.homebase.co.uk MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM-8PM • FRIDAY 8AM-9PM • SATURDAY 8AM-8PM • SUNDAY 10AM-4PM\*\*

24.9% APR variable  
\*Offering items may vary. Certain stores open until 10pm Monday to Friday. \*\*Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-5pm. Certain other stores open 11am-5pm. Please call 0645 801 800 during office hours for details of your nearest store. \*The kitchens included in this promotion are 50% off Albany Premier Carcase, 40% off Leathers Premier Carcase, 30% off Verona Classic Carcase and 20% off Stamford Premier Carcase. The fully fitted ranges in this promotion are 40% off Albany Premier Carcase, 30% off Leathers Premier Carcase and 20% off Verona Classic Carcase. 20% off Stamford Premier Carcase and includes installation. Fully fitted kitchens are subject to survey, additional work such as tiling, additional sockets, plastering, lighting and old kitchen disposal are not included. Full details available instore. \*Excluding Creda Refrigerators, Hot water 4922. Free delivery to any UK mainland address (excluding N. Ireland). See instore for details. \*\*In March 1999 pay in full or 6 credit. Written questions on request from Homebase Limited, Bedford House, Watlington, Watlington, Oxfordshire, OX9 2JH. Homebase are licensed credit brokers. Loans subject to status and approval and are not available to anyone under 18 years. Minimum qualifying spend £350. Example: A kitchen costing £1,500. Pay in 36 monthly repayments of £52.62. Total amount repayable £2,074.32 (24.9% APR variable). Spend & Save Cards cannot be used on kitchen purchases. Products and offers may vary in N. Ireland and Eire.

## SURPLUS COMPUTER STOCKS

### SIEMENS STOCK CLEARANCE

**SIEMENS NIXDORF PENTIUM P233 MMX**  
Intel Pentium 233MHz MMX processor, 2.1Gb drive, 32Mb RAM, 24x CD-ROM, sound card and speakers, 4Mb Matrix Mystique graphics & 56K fax/modem, Siemens 14" SVGA colour monitor, kbcd, mouse, Windows 95, Works 95 Money 95 and 5 CD games. £699  
One year on-site warranty.

**PENTIUM II 266MHz**  
Model Scenic Pro DS, 4.3Gb drive, 32Mb RAM, 512K Cache, 2Mb Mystique graphics, 24x CD-ROM, sound & speakers, Siemens 15" colour monitor & Windows 95. Desktop case. One year on-site. £799

**DEC 500i COLOUR INK JET**  
Up to 600 x 300 dpi resolution, maximum 5 ppm printing speed, 5 resident fonts, 150 sheet capacity sheet feeder, also handles envelopes, labels and transparencies, for DOS and Windows, complete with colour cartridge. £89

**PENTIUM 166 MMX NOTEBOOK**  
High speed exclusive factory direct import, 2.1Gb hard drive, 16Mb RAM, 256K cache, 24x CD-ROM, 12.1" dual scan colour screen, removable 10 speed CD-ROM, sound card, speakers, mic, Glidepad pointing device, PCMCIA expansion slot choice, DOS/Windows 3.1 & soft case. £749

**FUJI DS-7 DIGITAL CAMERA**  
640 x 480 resolution, 2Mb removable SmartMedia card, 1.8" hi-res LCD colour screen, PC/Mac compatible, with Adobe PhotoDeluxe, AC adaptor & charger. PCMCIA download adaptor £29 • B&P £35. £149

**TOSHIBA LIBRETTO 30 CT**  
Miniature sub notebook - measures 8" x 5" x 1.5" weighs 2lbs, AMD 586 75MHz chip, 850Mb drive, 8Mb RAM, top quality TFT colour screen, pointing device, Windows 95. (US/Japanese keyboard). Upgrade to 20Mb RAM £59, ext floppy £99, ext CD £149. £469

**BETACOM M4 PLAIN PAPER FAX**  
PPF700, list price £350 - auto fax/phone switch, 10 auto dials, auto document feed, 100 sheet paper hopper, copy facility, BT approved, 1 year swap-out wty. £149  
PPF800 as above with answerphone £199

**IBM APTIVA PENTIUM P133**  
IBM Aptiva 440, 1.2Gb hard disk, 12Mb RAM - 2Mb allocated to video, 3x CD-ROM drive, 3D sound & speakers, MPEG graphics, 14" SVGA colour monitor, Win 95, SmartSuite, Encarta and CD suite. One year on-site wty. £499

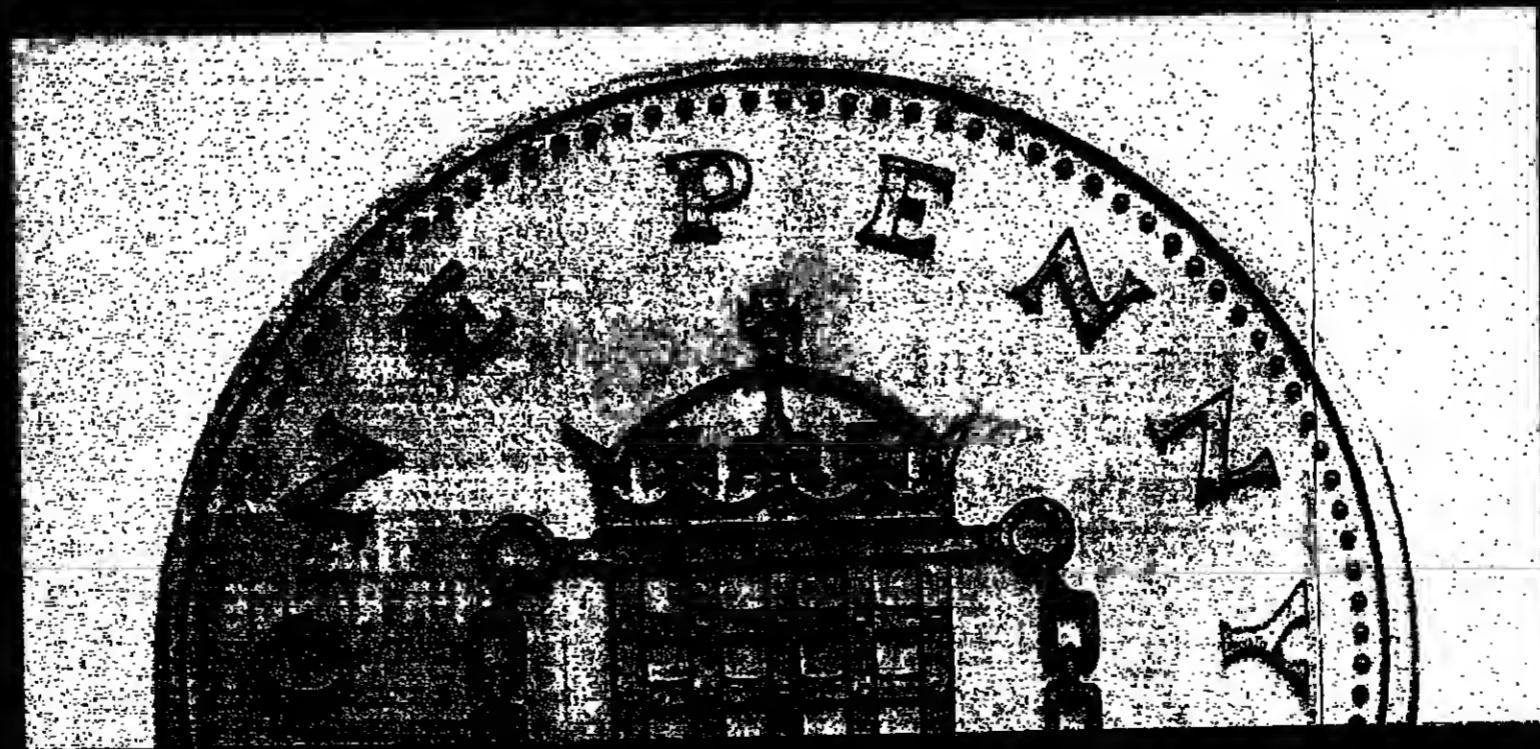
ALL GOODS BRAND NEW AND FULLY GUARANTEED - PRICES INC VAT LIMITED STOCKS - CALL TO CHECK - OFFERS MUST CLOSE 19.9.98

**Morgan Computer Co.**  
64-72 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AX • 0171-255 2115  
34 Edgobaston Cr, Hoxley Rd, Birmingham B16 6SH • 0121-452 1141  
11-12 Shelton Approach, Manchester M1 2GH • 0161-237 1111  
MAIL ORDER 0121-456 5565 FAX 0121-456 5564. Next day delivery subject to stock. All major credit cards accepted. \*Late night Thursday 7.30pm.  
INTERNET WEB SITE: http://www.morgancomputer.co.uk  
All prices inc VAT (7.5%). Delivery extra. Goods subject to availability. E & OE

سكزا من الاصل

cellnet firm

# Here's the low-down on Cellnet's new weekend rate.



From October 1st, standard local and national weekend calls on Cellnet will cost just 2p a minute. If you join Cellnet's free First for Families scheme, those calls to your ten nominated numbers will only cost 1p a minute.

See instore or call 0800 40 50 30.

cellnet first

cellnet it's in your hands

CONNECTION TO CELLNET IS SUBJECT TO STATUS. TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY. MINIMUM CHARGE 2p. 2p RATE NOT APPLICABLE TO MOBILE TO MOBILE CALLS. FIRST DISCOUNT APPLIED QUARTERLY. TELECOM SECURITY CORP. CELLNET AIR RATIO LIMITED

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

... from our principles

# US police say Fashanu lied about his sexuality

By Dominic Kennedy

**JUSTIN FASHANU** lied repeatedly when questioned about an alleged sexual assault on a 17-year-old boy in the United States. American police said yesterday after a London coroner recorded a suicide verdict on the footballer.

Fashanu, interviewed in his flat in Ellicott, Maryland, within three days of allegedly molesting the youth, told officers from Howard County Police that he was not a homosexual. Only later did they learn that in Britain he was well known to be homosexual, having sold his story to *The Sun*.

Fashanu had also denied to detectives that he had taken the boy to buy beer but police later interviewed an assistant in the shop who remembered

seeing the youth with a black man who had an English accent. Fashanu denied that the boy had been in his car but the police said that the youth was able to identify it. "He was lying to us," said Sergeant Morris Carroll.

Howard County Police yesterday gave *The Times* the first details of Fashanu's alleged lies after the coroner for Poplar, East London, stated that the "fallen hero" had not been a wanted man at the time he hanged himself.

The inquest heard evidence from a Scotland Yard detective that the Americans had made no request for Fashanu to be found or arrested. Howard County Police pointed out that this was because they did not

know he was in England. Had they known, they would have begun extradition proceedings.

The Fashanu family invoked the coroner's words to say that Justin's name had now been cleared. His brother John said: "I beg everybody, especially the media, to look at what the coroner had to say. We are very happy that Justin eventually is resting in peace with a clean bill."

Justin Fashanu's suicide note, which was read out by the coroner, accused the boy of being a willing partner and a blackmailer. The youth told police that he woke in Fashanu's bed after a drinking party to find Fashanu performing a sex act on him. Fashanu was charged with

second-degree sexual assault, and first-degree and second-degree assaults, which he denied. He faced a possible 20 years in jail. Homosexual acts are illegal in Maryland.

An arrest warrant was issued by Howard County District Court on April 3. By then, Fashanu's flat was empty.

On May 1, Howard County Police issued a press release asking Fashanu to return voluntarily. This was widely reported in the British media. The next day, Fashanu's body was found hanged in a garage in Shoreditch, East London.

His suicide note said: "I want to say that I didn't sexually assault the young boy. He willingly had sex with me and then the next day asked



Justin Fashanu's family outside the coroner's court in London yesterday. They said that his name had been cleared.

for money. When I said 'No' he said 'You wait and see, if that is the case, I hear you say, why did you run? Well, justice isn't always fair and I felt that I wouldn't get a fair trial be-

cause of my homosexuality. (Silly, really, but you know what happens when you panic.) The blood is from my wrist cut because I want to die rather than put my friends

and family through any more unhappiness."

The coroner, Stephen Chan, said: "It is clear he made a declaration of innocence. He expressed his lack of faith of a

fair trial. He did not wish to take any more pain or indeed to cause further distress to his family and his loved ones. Sadly, he decided that death was to be the only way out."

# Friends tell of pressure on Oxford student who cheated

By Adrian Lee, Victoria Fletcher and Hannah Betts

**THE Oxford University Students' Union** president expelled for cheating was in hiding yesterday as her friends and family sought to understand her conduct.

Katherine Rainwood, 22, was sent down in the summer after proctors found that the St Hilda's College undergraduate had used "unfair means" in her politics, philosophy

and economics finals. It is believed that having told investigators she had hurt her wrist she was allowed to use her personal computer and downloaded a pre-written essay.

Yesterday friends said they believed she had acted under the pressure of trying to combine student politics with final exams. Others felt she was driven by her older sister Helen's achievement of a first in Classics from Cambridge.

Miss Rainwood, who changed her name from Katerina Lakka after leaving Brighton and Hove High School, was brought up with her two older sisters and younger brother in Eastbourne, where her mother Sarah Castledine teaches English at a comprehensive school. She is divorced from her husband, Andrew Lakka, a nightclub owner.

One close family friend said: "Knowing Katherine, I would have said any pressure was self-imposed — she set herself very high stan-

dards." She said that Mrs Castledine, who "lived through the achievements of her four children", was distraught and could not bring herself to tell friends exactly what was alleged to have happened. "All she said was that Katherine had done something terrible," the friend said.

At her former school, founded in 1876 to teach girls "to govern themselves and their conduct by their reason and conscience",

Rosalind Woodbridge, the headmistress, said: "I can scarcely believe it — it is so out of character. She was very clever, one of the best historians I have taught and equally able in every subject."

Miss Rainwood was described by friends as a "strong-minded extrovert", a keen debater and student politician with a reputation for political correctness, an anti-establishment attitude and advocacy of homosexual and bisexual

rights. She was elected last year as OUSU President on a new Labour ticket.

In her election posters she described herself as compassionate with a hard edge and promised to make the exam marking and appeals system "more transparent, telling voters: 'I will do everything that can be done, and more.'"

She resigned two days after taking up the post, citing only "personal reasons".



Rainwood: combined politics with finals

# Now PC World bring you Packard Bell's new generation of PCs...

## THE PULSAR RANGE

Easy to use PCs with a special range of built-in software to help with your children's education. Its Internet features include cost management and Cyberpatrol to prevent access to unsuitable sites.

### Ideal Family PCs

## THE PLATINUM RANGE

These are the PCs for the serious enthusiast. With up to 550MHz of processing power, they offer performance, speed and the latest DVD drives. Plus extra professional software titles built-in, such as Media Studio Pro 5.0.

### The Latest DVD Technology

...with an unbeatable range of educational software — and more.

<h3>333MHz INTEL® CELERON™ PROCESSOR WITH 128k CACHE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 64Mb SDRAM</li> <li>• 6.4Gb Hard Drive</li> <li>• 4Mb ATI Rage Pro 2 x AGP Graphics</li> <li>• 32 x CD-ROM drive, speakers and subwoofer</li> <li>• 56k Voice Modem</li> <li>• 15" Monitor</li> <li>• Windows 98</li> </ul> <p>MODEL: Pulsar C333</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">£1099</p>	<h3>350MHz INTEL® CELERON™ PROCESSOR WITH 128k CACHE</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 48Mb SDRAM</li> <li>• 6.4Gb Hard Drive</li> <li>• 4Mb ATI Rage Pro 2 x AGP Graphics</li> <li>• 32 x CD-ROM drive, speakers and subwoofer</li> <li>• 56k Voice Modem</li> <li>• 15" Monitor</li> <li>• Windows 98</li> </ul> <p>MODEL: Pulsar C300</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">£999</p>
---	--

### THE CLUB RANGE

You'll be amazed by how many features are included in the price. With a great bundle of software built-in, it's ideal for everyday use.

From Only £699

<h3>CYRIX MII 300 PROCESSOR</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 256Mb RAM</li> <li>• 5.2Gb Hard Drive</li> <li>• 32 x CD-ROM drive</li> <li>• 56k Modem</li> <li>• 15" Monitor</li> <li>• Windows 98</li> <li>• PLUS a great range of software</li> </ul> <p>MODEL: Club 300</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">£699</p>	<h3>CYRIX MII 300 PROCESSOR</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 256Mb RAM</li> <li>• 5.2Gb Hard Drive</li> <li>• 32 x CD-ROM drive</li> <li>• 56k Modem</li> <li>• 15" Monitor</li> <li>• Windows 98</li> <li>• PLUS a great range of software</li> </ul> <p>MODEL: Club 400</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">£799</p>
--	--

### FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464

ABERDEEN	BIRMINGHAM	GLASGOW	LONDON	MANCHESTER	NEWCASTLE	NOTTINGHAM	PLYMOUTH	ST. ALBANS
BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM	BIRMINGHAM

# PC WORLD

THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

**12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*** WITH NO DEPOSIT ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £250

\*Account is Interest Free if repaid in full before, or with the 6/9/12th monthly payment. Options are available for 6 months for products £250-£500, 12 months for products over £500. Typical example: Cash price £1500, 12 monthly payments of £125.00. Total amount paid £1500.00. All loans subject to status.

29.5%

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mardi Gra case trial for brothers

Two brothers in their sixties were committed for trial at the Old Bailey yesterday accused of the "Mardi Gra" bombing and blackmail plot involving branches of Barclays bank and Sainsbury, which lasted for almost 3 1/2 years.

Edgar Pearce, 60, is charged with 20 offences, nine of them jointly with his brother, Ronald, 66, over a period from December 1, 1994, to 28 April 1998. They include nine charges of blackmail, four with his brother, assault, possession of an explosive substance and possession of weapons "designed or adapted for the discharge of a noxious thing". The Pearce brothers, from separate addresses in Chiswick, West London, were remanded in custody at Horseferry Road Magistrates Court in central London.

### Publican shot

A village publican was found dead in his cellar with a single gunshot wound in his back. Tariq Javed Sattar, who had been running the Black Bull in Birkby, near Huddersfield, for four months had been bound hand and foot. The pub safe was open.

### GCSE blunder

About 130,000 pupils will have their GCSE grades improved after a computer error gave them the wrong final marks. The Northern Examinations and Assessment Board said the mistake occurred in a new program to calculate results.

### Hoaxer jailed

John Smyth, 53, of Wigan, whose stepson was one of the first soldiers on the scene of the Ormagh bombing, has been jailed for 15 months for making a hoax bomb call to John Mowlem & Co, his Wirral-based former employers, on July 11 last year.

### £2m heroin haul

Twenty kilograms of heroin with a street value of £2 million was seized from a car in a lock-up garage at Tottenham, North London, Scotland Yard said. A man aged 38 was being questioned on suspicion of possession of drugs with intent to supply.

### Hit for six

A batsman hit a six then watched as the ball crashed through the windscreen of his own BMW. Rain stopped play and Kevin Cresswell, 29, of Sholing, Southampton, had immediately to go in search of a replacement windscreen to stop the interior getting wet.

## Bahamas murder inquiry extended

By DANIEL MCGRODY

A SCOTLAND Yard detective hunting a suspected serial killer in the Bahamas is to investigate the murder of a British teacher there.

The family of Carol Leach appealed to British officials for Detective Superintendent Brian Morris to extend his investigation after condemning the local police for failing to find her killer.

Mrs Leach, 36, was found battered to death in her home on the island of Eleuthera in August last year. She had been killed by a single blow to the head, apparently from the blunt end of a machete. There was no sign of a sexual assault and nothing was taken from her villa.

Mr Morris is in the Bahamas to help local police to investigate the murder of Joanne Clarke, 24, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, on a beach on Paradise Island last month. Her death is believed to be linked to that of an American teacher, Lori Fogelman.

Mr Morris will now travel to the neighbouring island of Eleuthera to carry out inquiries into the death of Mrs Leach, who had moved there seven years earlier with her husband, Christopher, also a teacher.

Mrs Leach's mother, Eve Gamson, 64, of Coleford, near Bath, said yesterday: "I desperately need to know who did this to my daughter and why. When I heard that Scotland Yard was going to investigate the other murders, I asked whether they would be allowed to investigate my daughter's murder and was told 'no'."

"I was very upset and I protested long and loud. I think the other murders have received such a high profile because they were killed on Paradise Island, which is a very rich playground. I don't believe Carol's death was as important to the local police."

"But I am so pleased and very relieved that at last something appears to be happening, although I have to be honest and say that my hopes are not very high because it is a year ago and the trail will probably have gone cold by now."

## ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPICE

MARKET LONDON E8 4SA  
(Charity No. 103255)

Even the smallest gift or service helps. Death comes with finality and the opening door to Heaven cannot be And make it Heaven there. THANKS TO OUR DONORS.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of our many friends and supporters, we are able to bring peace, care and comfort to the terminally ill so that death may indeed "come with friendly care."

Sister Superior

## CORRECTION

A report yesterday in which Chris Patten questioned the wisdom of the Conservative ballot on Europe was accompanied in some editions by a photograph of Lord Patten. We apologise for the error.

## Opera

Concerto  
Dava Alberca

## WELCOME TO A COLOUR

150 من الاصل



# Opera orchestra defends extra payments

## Covent Garden is determined to abolish 'restrictive practices', report

### Dalya Alberge and Frances Gibb

A FLAUTIST at the Royal Opera House is paid extra for a performance at which he is required to play the piccolo. Although standard for orchestral musicians, that is the kind of restrictive practice that the cash-strapped house is trying to eliminate from its costs.

A spokesman for the Opera House said: "The practice of 'doubling' is common and standard in orchestras. It ought to be brought to an end. It is expensive and we can't afford it."

Percussionists, he said, were paid per instrument they use: every different drum, he suggested, had a different price. Dancers, too, have complex infringement payments so that if they have to dance or rehearse during meal breaks, they receive some money. "We are trying to bring that to an end, and consolidate them into the basic salaries."

Not surprisingly, the musicians are outraged that they stand to lose extra earnings. Horace Trubridge, of the Musicians' Union said that world-class orchestral musicians had in the past 12 months struggled to earn just £20,000. He added that the management were now trying to reduce fees even further with part-time contracts and the relinquishment of all payments for media rights and broadcasts. "This is blackmail."

Working in Covent Garden's orchestra, he explained, is one of the worst-paid jobs for a musician in London. Its members earned less than their counterparts in English National Opera, and "are considerably worse off than

musicians working on theatre shows. They have constantly had the promise of jam tomorrow."

He said that the board's decision itself constituted "the ultimate in restrictive practices" in that the board did not wish to share the profits from broadcasts. Without such payments, he explained, musicians could not make a living. Many were on the breadline.

The rescue plan put forward by the Royal Opera House could be justified if the institution was in extreme financial difficulties, a specialist in employment law said yesterday. Stephen Gummer, a solicitor in the employment law department at the London firm Beachcroft Stanleys, said: "Obviously, this is a draconian measure but it is nothing novel — it does not break new ground."

"If you have an employer who faces bankruptcy and may have to close, then is a question of saying to the employees: either you have your P45 and your statutory redundancy, or you take this deal and we try to save the company from going down the chute."

He emphasised that any rescue plan involving renegotiated pay and working conditions would have to be fair and reasonable in all the circumstances.

"This is what a tribunal would look at if people refuse to accept the new terms and seek to argue constructive, and therefore unfair, dismissal."

But, he said, the Opera House will have taken a business decision. "Provided they have gone about this in a fair and reasonable manner, considered options and decided that this is the only one, then they would have a defence to any tribunal claim."

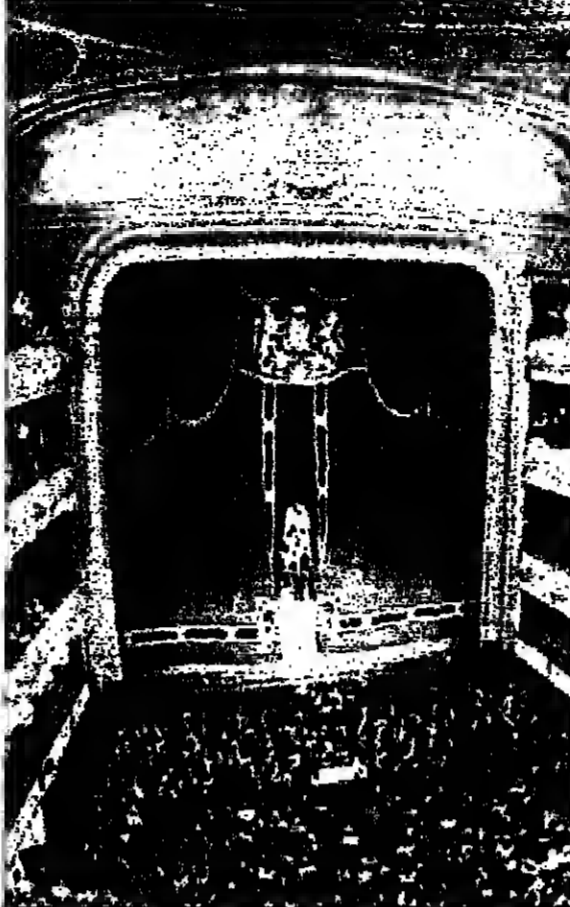
He added that some employees might accept the package and others might reject it. "If that is the case, then the Opera House has no option but to sack those who reject the new terms. Those are the ones who would be likely to pursue the possibility of any claims," he added.

Representatives of Equity, the Musicians' Union and Bectu representing performers

**Soloists** — Can expect to earn between £3,000 and £5,000 a performance. The sizes, however, expect much more. Although the ROH says it never discusses individual fees, stars such as Plácido Domingo, Luciano Pavarotti and Kiri Te Kanawa (right) are believed to command figures of between £20,000 and £50,000.

**Chorus** — After an agreement renegotiated last year, they are on a salary of £25,400. That has taken in most of the overtime, infringement payments and unlimited radio access.

**Tickets** — The range has yet to be agreed. In the old house, tickets for a normal opera were between £120 and £135, though a Pavarotti gala was much more. In the new house, they hope to bring down those prices to between £90 and £100. They will also change the pricing from 11 different bands to six, making it simpler. They will also have many more seats in the middle price areas. The £75 to £80 range will go down to £40 to £45. Tickets start at £5.



**500 staff** — Including those who have just heard the news of their redundancy. Stagelands — Including overtime, the average salary for a scenery shifter is £35,000.

**Production costs** — Including scenery, costumes and wages, the average salary is £250,000 per show and goes up to £300,000-plus.

**Heating and lighting** — The estimated cost for the first full year in the new house is £500,000.

**Conductors** — such as Bernard Haitink (left) receive an average of £8,000 to £10,000.

**Players** — Their pay depends on where they sit. The average salary is £28,000 to £35,000. A principal player gets a higher fee than a rank and file player in the strings, for example. A principal percussionist gets the same as the principal of any other section.

**Corporate tickets** — Some 15 per cent are currently available to the corporate sector. In the new house, more tickets will be available to the public. Until now, gilly performances went to people on membership lists. In the new house, at least 20 per cent will be available to the public and people on the mailing list, which costs from £8 a year.

## Planners approve £4m idea for bomb church

By Robin Young

PLANNERS have approved a modified scheme to rebuild the City of London's smallest church, St Ethelburga's Bishopsgate, as a centre for reconciliation and peace.

The rare piece of medieval London was seriously damaged by an IRA bomb in 1993. The Right Reverend Richard Chartres, the Bishop of London, has launched a £1.8 million appeal toward the £4 million cost, and hopes to open the restored church in Holy Week 2000.

The Bishop's predecessor, Dr David Hope, now Archbishop of York, launched an architectural competition for a reconstruction of the church. It was won by a glass-fronted design that would have left some bomb damage exposed. City planners rejected the scheme as inappropriate. The new proposals were prepared by the architects Purcell Miller Tritton and had the support of English Heritage, the Royal Fine Art Commission, the City Heritage Society and the Friends of St Ethelburga.

Paul Vonberg, the architect responsible for much of the design, said: "The planning committee's decision is a welcome endorsement of our approach, the integration of the old and the new."

The new St Ethelburga's is to incorporate the surviving fabric, and the Bishopsgate facade will be rebuilt from original material, including reconstruction of the belfry from the medieval timbers.

A new courtyard garden is to be constructed at the rear, housing the offices of the centre and also providing a place of retreat for people working in and around Bishopsgate. The courtyard will consist of arched colonnades with a dome, a striking feature over the centre's main meeting room.

## When less means more, or how Alice came to Covent Garden

By Rodney Milnes, Chief Opera Critic

*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* could only have been set in England: it would be hard to explain to anyone from Europe, let alone from Mars, how it is that two of the leading performing arts companies can best survive by performing less, but such is the result of the trial of strength between funding bodies and the Royal Opera House.

What will be the effect? Well, there's that old-fashioned thing called "morale", and members of the Royal Opera who actually give performances cannot take it as a vote of confidence that they will be giving around 50 fewer performances next year, and less than expected by about a third when — or if — they return to the refurbished House. The "it" because their jobs, anyway, are at risk, with the understanding that if they don't toe the line on working practices then those jobs will cease to exist.

That seems to go for everyone — orchestra, stage staff, dancers — and

although the orchestra for the time being looks comparatively safe, the future of the chorus definitely looks uncertain, and management assurances that they will try to find work for both do not inspire confidence. It can't feel very good being a dancer, stagehand or singer today, especially when none of this can seriously be said to be their fault.

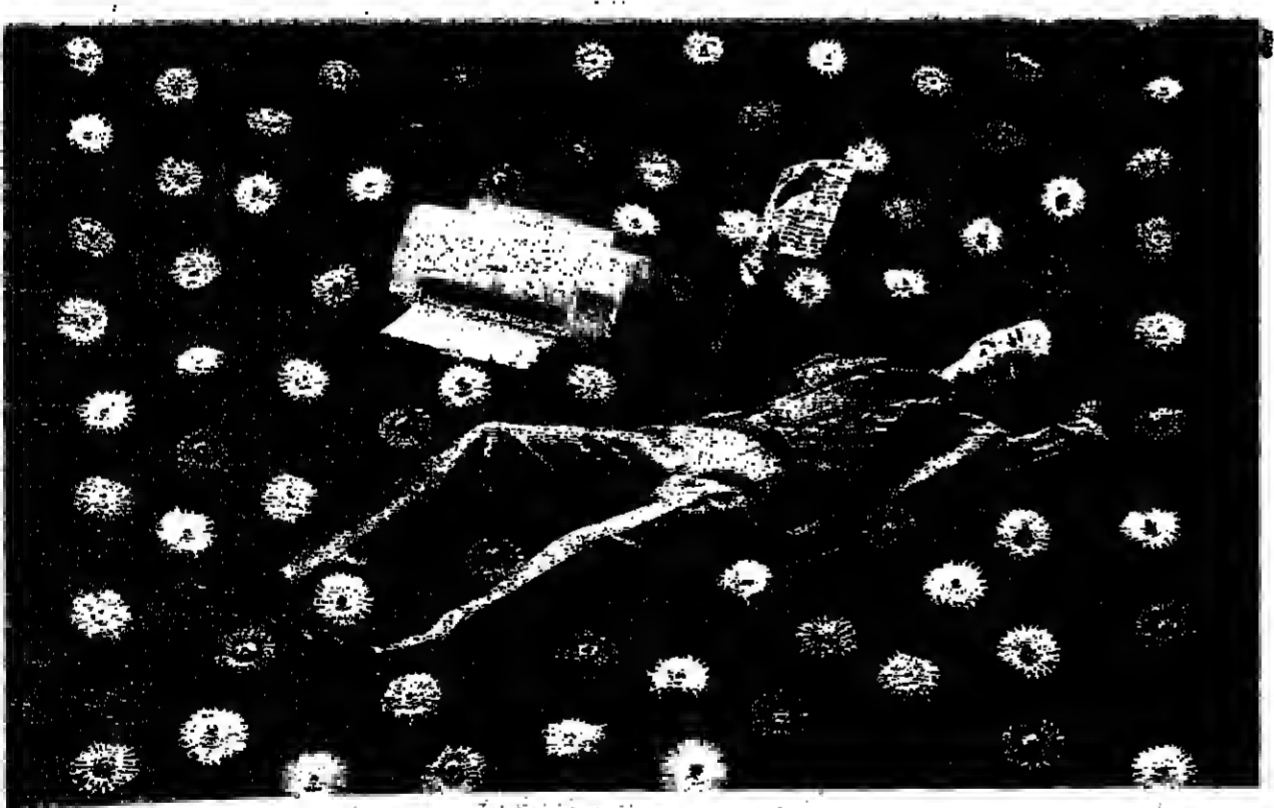
The loss of the six productions which were to have been given at Sadler's Wells next year, three of them part of the ongoing Verdi Festival, is as grievous for potential audiences as for performers. Those soloists and production teams already engaged will pick up substantial cancellation fees and find work elsewhere — the sums involved in working out exactly how much will be saved by this cutback must be extremely complex. But one of the ideas behind the closure period plans was to attract new audiences to theatres commanding lower seat prices, especially crucial once it became

plain that the traditional Covent Garden audience showed little inclination to attend performances anywhere else. Who will go to the new House in 2000? Will people simply have got out of the habit?

Meanwhile, the old audience may find satisfaction in the little "country house" companies springing up like mushrooms, and that potential new audience will continue to find solace at the English National Opera. So will the seasonal tourist trade that meant so much to the old House — people come to London because the opera and ballet, not to mention the theatre, are so good. A blank year, as long a time in the arts as a fortnight is in politics, with the added implicit threat that it could be more, is a dangerous thing: people might feel "the hell with it" and find that they can do without the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet. It all seems incredibly shortsighted for the sake of a bit of wounded pride and macho muscle-flexing.



Job Centre



### Welcome to a world where colour is available to all.



Yellow, blue, red, pink... A world of colour is opening up to you. All thanks to the new colour printers from Lexmark.

There's a rainbow of choice, too.

For the family, the Colorjet 1100 with its incredible photo quality printing is an ideal choice. Or there's the Colorjet 2200 which combines professional print quality with astonishing speed for its class.

For the business user, there's the Optra Color 1200, the fastest desktop colour page printer on the market or the Optra SC1275, our award-winning colour laser. There's also the Optra Color 43 and 45 networkable colour inkjet printers for stunning colour output from all your business applications.

Whether for the home or office, all of these printers share one important feature — their exceptional price. So it's easy to bring some Lexmark colour into your life.

To show the world your true colours, simply call 08000 380088 during working hours.

Or visit our web site at [www.lexmark.co.uk/cprccolour](http://www.lexmark.co.uk/cprccolour) anytime.

# LEXMARK

Lexmark Printers. So good, you'll want to work in colour forever.

## THE MILLENNIUM BUG.



# QUICK

# FIX

These are the facts. There is no tooth fairy. Santa Claus does not exist. There will be no quick fix for the Millennium Bug. Your business is at risk if you do not act now. Action 2000 has been set up to help. You'd better call us. Quick, act now! Call **0845 601 2000** for your free Action Pack.

For your free Action Pack send this coupon to Action 2000, P.O. Box 1999, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9GS, fax us on 01923 474 514, call 0845 601 2000 or visit our website at [www.bug2000.co.uk](http://www.bug2000.co.uk)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Position \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
 Business Type \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Employees  1-9  10-250  251-500  500+

action 2000

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

**Princess's fund seeks lawyers to halt pirates**

By DANIEL MCGRORY

THE charity set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales, is asking leading law firms to tackle pirate merchandisers.

The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund has already set aside a £3 million "war chest" for extreme breaches of copyright. The move comes after criticism of the £500,000 charged by the Princess's divorce lawyers, Miscon de Reya, who worked for the fund since its launch.

The fund has yet to publish figures for the legal bills it has incurred. A spokesman for the fund said: "The figures have to be put in context. There was a bill for around £100,000 for the legal work done on the compilation CD which raised £13 million for the fund."

Applications close on October 16: shortlisted candidates will be asked to give a more detailed presentation to the fund's trustees in November. The final choice will be made by Christmas. Independent assessors will help to judge applicants.

Miscon de Reya is expected to tender, although Anthony Julius, chairman of the trustees and a consultant with the firm, will not take part in any vote.

**Your health is in your hands, public is told**

MAJOR improvements in the nation's health can only be achieved by changes in lifestyle, Sir Kenneth Calman, the retiring Chief Medical Officer, said in his seventh and last annual report yesterday.

While medical advances had helped to increase life expectancy and reduce mortality rates from illnesses such as cancer and heart disease since his appointment in 1991, the potential to improve health further was now largely in the hands of the public.

"We can do very much better," Sir Kenneth said. "The major issues about changing health in this country relate to lifestyle and behaviour. Things like cigarette smoking, obesity and lack of fitness are very significant. It doesn't cost any money at all to address these problems which are key to the health of the nation."

Since he took over as what he described as "the nation's GP" in 1991, the average expectation of life for men has improved from 73.4 years to 74.6 years and from 78.9 years to 79.7 years for women. Coronary heart disease deaths are down 30 per cent, compared with 13 per cent between 1981 and 1987. Deaths from breast cancer have fallen by 17 per cent compared with 0.7 per cent over the same period a decade earlier.

However, the proportion of

**Ian Murray on the retiring Chief Medical Officer's prescription for a fit nation**

the population between 16 and 64 who are clinically obese has risen from 13 per cent to 16 per cent among males and from 15 per cent to 17 per cent among females.

The proportion of children aged 11 to 15 who smoke regularly has risen from 10 per cent to 13 per cent. Among adult males, smoking has not increased from 28 per cent, but among females it has risen from 25 per cent to 28 per cent.

The proportion of under-age drinkers had not increased from about 22 per cent, although the average number of units these children drank had doubled. Although the proportion of adult males drinking over the recommended limit of 21 units a week remained at 27 per cent, the number of females consuming more than the recommended limit of 14

units increased from 11 per cent to 14 per cent.

Sir Kenneth highlighted screening as one of the ways in which science could continue to improve health. Only three programmes — breast and cervical tests for women, and bloodspot tests for babies — were widely and successfully used.

A pilot screening scheme for colorectal cancer was being planned and others for hepatitis B during pregnancy, chlamydia, Down's syndrome and ovarian cancer are being considered. He gave warning that although 100 screening programmes were in use worldwide, none was perfect. "Some of these are not necessary or of the right quality. Every time you introduce a screening programme, some people who are perfectly healthy will be unnecessarily investigated and even treated."

More attention needed to be paid to investigating autism, which affects about 20,000 children, and diabetes, the incidence of which was expected to triple to three million over the next decade.

The largest chapter in his annual report covers the impact of the environment. It says that global warming is likely to increase deaths caused by heat stress in summer and the number of intestinal infections. A warmer climate would also amplify the biological impact of certain air pollutants and increase the dangers of cancer from ultra violet rays.

The high death rate in Britain during the winter months contrasted with that of



Sir Kenneth Calman, who has spent seven stressful years as "the nation's GP"

**Death rate in young men bucks the trend**

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

ALTHOUGH life expectancy is increasing, the death rate among males in the 15 to 44 age group is worse than it was in the early 1980s.

A high suicide rate, violence, Aids and road accidents are the likely reasons, but Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer, pointed to this depressing statistic as one of the few failures during his term in office.

In 1992 there were more than two additional deaths per 100,000 men aged 25-29 than a decade earlier, one more death among those aged 30-34, and six more per 100,000 in those aged 35-39. Men are twice as likely to die from lung cancer as women, and men aged 65 are 3½ times as likely to suffer from coronary heart disease as women. Among men aged 15-34, some 21 per cent of deaths are from road traffic accidents. Sir Kenneth said that the rising suicide rate in young men during the 1990s appeared to have halted, but the pace of modern life could explain why an increasing number of both men and women were taking anti-depressants.

Between 1994 and 1996 the number prescribed drugs such as Prozac rose by 19 per cent among men and by 15 per cent among women. About 36 men and 81 women in every 1,000 of the population are on anti-depressants.

countries with colder climates but better housing policies. Poverty and squalid conditions meant that Britain's excessive death rate in winter was a cause for concern.

Sir Kenneth, who once described his job as "the epicentre of stress", retires to

become vice-chancellor of Durham University on September 21. Professor Liam Donaldson, director of the NHS Northern and Yorkshire region, will succeed him.

On the State of the Public Health 1997 (Stationary Office: £18.50)

**Nurses are cool over new chance of bonuses**

By OUR MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

NURSING leaders gave a cool reception yesterday to a government announcement that senior nurses could earn more than £1,300 extra a year in discretionary payments.

"This doesn't address the main problem of the nurse shortage crisis," said Stephen Griffin, director of labour relations at the Royal College of Nursing. "These discretionary points will not apply to the vast majority of nurses."

The extra money for senior nurses taking on additional responsibilities was recommended by the independent pay review in January but details of how the system operates have only just been finalised. Nurses in the four most senior grades will be able to qualify for up to three extra pay points, worth £375 to £400 each, a total rise of 5 per cent. Radiographers and occupational therapists could earn up to 7 per cent extra.

The agreement came a day after the Prime Minister announced that senior nurses would be granted consultant status, entitling them to increased pay and merit awards.

Surveys among staff found wide dissatisfaction among senior nurses, with 25 per cent contemplating resignation within 12 months.

**Doctors want 10% pay rise to restore morale**

By MARK HENDERSON

DOCTORS yesterday defied government calls for public sector pay restraint to demand a rise of at least 10 per cent next year to bring their salaries into line with other professionals.

The British Medical Association called for the increase of more than three times the inflation rate in its submission to the independent pay review body for doctors and dentists, which it urged to consider a five-year programme of rises to increase pay by as much as 50 per cent.

Jan Bogle, chairman of the BMA council, said that the rises, which would cost £300 million a year, were essential to restore morale and stop doctors from leaving the NHS. "The attrition rate following the initial enthusiasm of young doctors is absolutely frightening, causing anxiety about our future ability to man the health service. One of the main factors behind people going into a responsible job is the rate of pay, and therefore I expect the public will understand that the rate of pay we are asking for is justified."

A GP's salary, net of average practice expenses, is £47,540, rising to £48,035 on December 1 when the second stage of this year's award is added to salaries. A 10 per cent rise would take their earnings to £48,515.

The lowest paid junior doctors earn £15,800 rising to £16,145 in December, and top consultants who win maximum distinction awards can earn up to £113,890, rising to £115,130 in December. Basic consultant earnings before bonuses are £57,300 at the top pay scale, rising to £59,040.

The BMA demands are almost certain to be resisted by the Government, which in July promised £21 billion more for the NHS over three years but said it expected the money to go on patient care, not staff salaries. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, has asked review bodies to consider affordability and inflation in reaching next year's pay awards, a point reiterated by Tony Blair this week.

Paying doctors more would be one of the most effective ways of improving the calibre of treatment in the NHS, Dr Bogle said. "I deplore the thinking which says if you get a significant pay award then patient care will suffer. I find that thinking flawed. Resourcing of staff is essential, a key ingredient in the provision of care."

**Dixons PLAYSTATION £99.99 OUT NOW!**

**PRICE CHECK**  
PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN  
Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

**sale STARTS THIS WEEK**

**PLAYSTATION SAVE 15% HALF PRICE!**

**PlayStation NEWMAN HAAS**  
Indy car racing at its best with 19 cars to drive and 14 tracks to choose from. Was £29.99. **SALE PRICE £19.99**

**RASCAL**  
Enter into the world of this charming 3D platform romp. Was £29.99. **SAVE £10 HALF PRICE £19.99**

**SNOW RACER 98**  
A vertiginous feast of snowboarding and sliding on 15 different slopes. Was £29.99. **SAVE £10 HALF PRICE £19.99**

**FORSAKER**  
Stunning new 3D graphics and 360 degrees of movement. Was £44.99. **LESS THAN HALF PRICE £19.99**

**WRECKING CREW**  
A zany race where you must stunt and shoot your way to the front and victory. Was £29.99. **HALF PRICE £19.99**

**NINTENDO 64 SAVE 20%**

**DUKE NUKEM, HEXEN, SAN FRANCISCO RUSH, MACE AND DOOM**  
Was £54.99 Each. **SALE PRICE £34.99**

**TEKKEN 3 OUT NOW!**

**THE BEST WAY TO BUY PLAYSTATION AND SOFTWARE**

**35 TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM!**  
Buy PlayStation with DUAL SHOCK Controller for £29.99, and choose from a selected range of games, including TEKKEN 3!

PlayStation 2500 **£129.95**  
ANY PICK UP BOX GAME Total Separate Selling Price Up to £44.99

PlayStation 2500 **£139.95**  
ANY 2 PICK UP BOX GAMES Total Separate Selling Price Up to £89.97

PlayStation 2500 **£169.95**  
ANY 4 PICK UP BOX GAMES Total Separate Selling Price Up to £178.48

**Dixons**  
There's a Great Deal going on  
ON-LINE SHOP: www.dixons.co.uk

**STAY IN TOUCH · STAY IN POCKET**

**NO BILLS!**

**SAVE £10**  
TEXT EXPRESS was £59.99 NOW ONLY £49.99  
PLUS FREE NEWS BULLETINS AND LOTTERY RESULTS

**NO CONTRACT**  
**NO MONTHLY BILLS EVER**  
**NO CONNECTION CHARGES**  
**JUST BUY THE PAGER**

**PAGEONE MINICALL PAGERS**

Pagers from £29.99 available at Argos, Comet, Currys, Dixons, John Lewis Department Stores, Maplins, Staples, Tandy, Tempo and other PageOne authorised dealers.

For further information FreeCall 0500 505 505 or visit our Website: <http://www.pageone.co.uk>

Germany back to old Ma

way into Leeds

TELEVISION

سكرا من الالاه

# Germany wins back looted Old Master

A DUTCH Old Master looted from a German art gallery in the final days of the Second World War must be returned to Germany, more than 50 years after it was stolen by the Red Army, the High Court ruled yesterday.

The *Holy Family with Angels and Saints* by Joachim Wiewael, worth £700,000, was one of thousands of artworks stolen as war trophies and distributed to the four corners of the Soviet empire.

Yesterday's judgment was seen as a landmark decision with far-reaching consequences for the international art market. Dr Michael Carl, a solicitor who has worked on stolen art cases for 30 years, said dealers and auction houses would have to apply much stricter legal standards when selling objects.

The story of how Wiewael's masterpiece of Dutch Mannerism made its journey from a castle in Thuringia in 1946 to a Sotheby's art sale in 1992 has all the ingredients of a John le Carré novel. The characters include Smersh, the forerunner of the KGB; "Big Mama", an ambassador's wife with a sideline in art smuggling; a mafia-controlled Russian icon art ring; and a secretive Panamanian-registered company, Cobert Finance SA, accused of concealing vital information about its dealings.

Add to this allegations made in court that a key witness was paid US\$10,000 (about £6,000) at a shady meeting in the foyer of the Savoy Hotel in London last February and you have what Mr Justice Moses understatedly described yesterday as a "very stimulating case".

During the three-week hearing, the High Court heard how the disputed masterpiece — painted on copper in 1603 and measuring 8in by 6in — was bought by Cobert Finance in 1989. It was put up for sale by Sotheby's in 1992 but

**Peter Foster on how a painting taken as a war trophy came to be on sale at Sotheby's**

withdrawn when doubts were raised about its provenance.

The picture's pre-war history is not in dispute. From 1826, it was owned by the dukes of Saxe-Coburg Gotha until the family was deposed in 1918 and the picture transferred to a municipal Foundation for Art and Science. Historians who gave evidence concluded that the picture was most likely removed from Thuringia in 1946 by a Russian trophy brigade led by a Major Professor Alexeyev under the authority of Smersh.

In the mid-1980s the picture resurfaced on Moscow's thriving black art market and at this point, accounts diverge.

Cobert Finance initially claimed that the picture was given to a Latvian Colonel in the Russian army by a German family in return for food. His son, they said, took it to Moscow in 1985 before selling it to a Mr Sunguzo who sold it in Berlin to a Mina Breslav who, finally, sold it privately to Cobert in London in 1989. However, on the first day of the trial, Cobert conceded that it had not acquired the painting in good faith.

The Federal Republic of Germany gave a very different account of the picture's tortuous progress across Europe, based on the evidence of two Russian art smugglers. One, Alexander Makhin, told how

he had first seen the painting at the Moscow flat of two icon smugglers.

Makhin contacted a German man Helmut Furst, who smuggled works of art from the former Soviet Union. Makhin then said he had set up a meeting in an embassy limousine between Furst and Mariouena Dikeni, the wife of the Togo ambassador in Moscow. Mrs Dikeni, also known as "Big Mama", agreed to act as courier but later claimed to the cultural attaché to the German Embassy in Togo that she had lost the picture to the Berlin dealer who was selling it.

Mr Justice Moses said that thieves should not be able to prosper by hiding behind European laws that put time limits on reclaiming stolen property. "The law favours the true owner of property which has been stolen, however long the period which has elapsed since the original theft."



Michael Carl with Joachim Wiewael's *The Holy Family with Angels and Saints*

# Knife man sent to Broadmoor

By JOANNA BALE

A YOUNG man who tried to murder a charity worker on a train by plunging a knife into her head was yesterday ordered to be detained indefinitely at Broadmoor high-security hospital.

Robert Buckland, 18, carried out "a premeditated experiment in violence" on Alison Kennedy, 28, Judge Geoffrey Grigson said at the Old Bailey. "You struck her a terrible blow intending she should die. It was only a miracle that led to her survival."

Buckland, unemployed and of no fixed address, showed no emotion as the judge made the order for him to be detained without limit of time under the Mental Health Act. He had apologised through his counsel, Anthony Bridgen, for "ruining his victim's life". Mr Bridgen said that there had been "no motive or logic" in the attack.

Miss Kennedy is still being treated for the injuries she received on a Waterloo-Guildford train in March last year. After the attack, she staggered along the train for help with the 5in blade embedded in her head.

This year she underwent

surgery to fix a metal plate in her skull. She suffers from tunnel vision and partial paralysis in her arm. She has returned to her job with the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The judge said that Buckland presented a grave danger to the public. His offence would ordinarily justify life imprisonment, but doctors agreed that he had a personality disorder and was likely to respond to treatment.

Buckland, who was convicted this year, had admitted wounding Miss Kennedy, but denied trying to murder her.



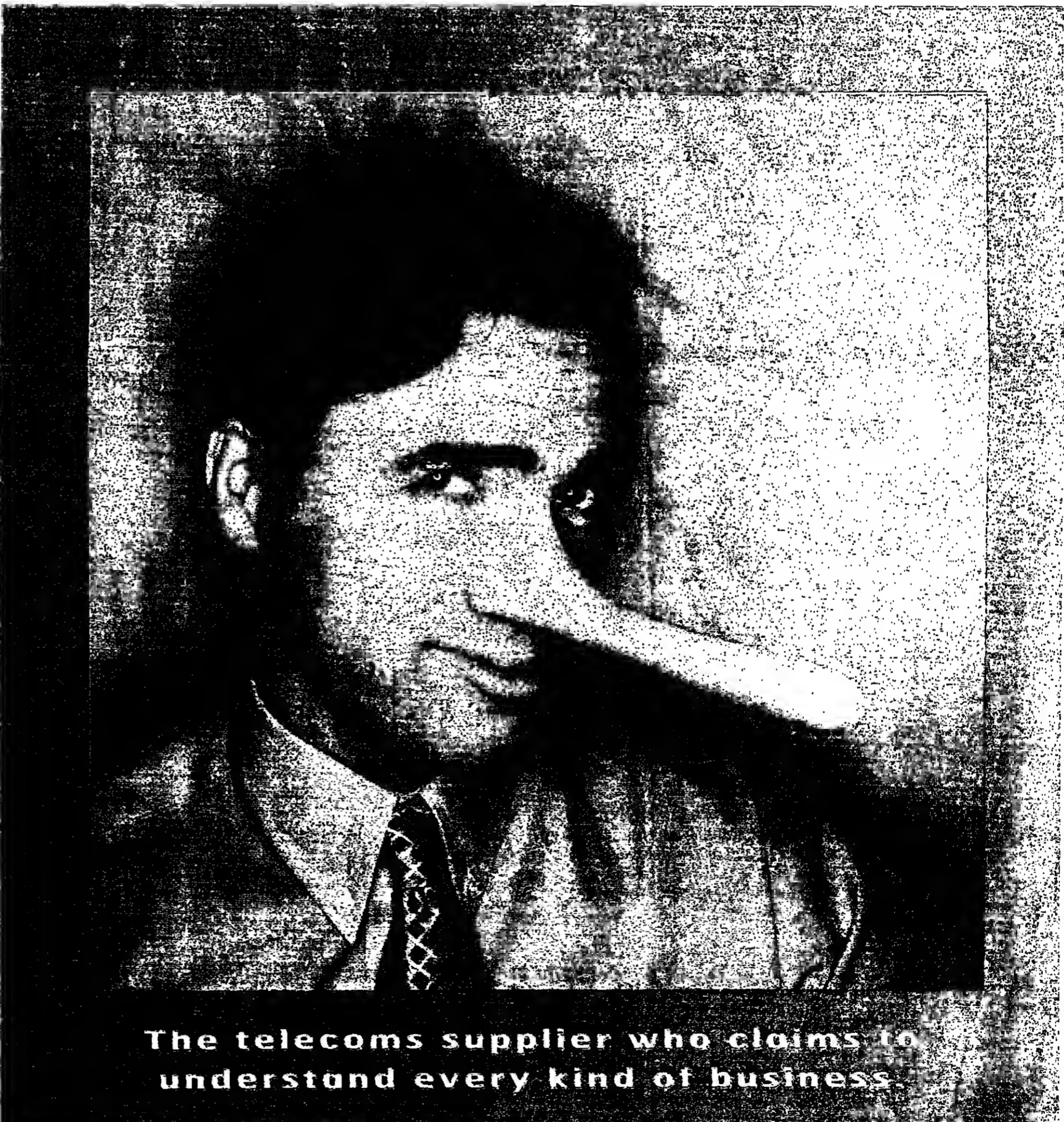
Kennedy: she was stabbed in the head

# M1 loses its way into the heart of Leeds

THE M1 motorway, London's road link with Leeds for the past 30 years, will stop three miles short of the city after next week. (Paul Wilkinson writes). From September 16 the final section north of junction 43 through the suburbs will become part of the M62.

Motorists will still be able to drive into the centre of the city by motorway, but Highways Agency officials are anxious that they should not be con-

fused by the new route numbering. The change, which will also involve the re-numbering of five junctions on the old M1, is being made ahead of the opening next year of a new £190 million extension of the motorway, which will bypass Leeds to link with the A1 heading north to Tyneside and Scotland. Construction work on two massive multi-lane interchanges at each end has been underway for almost two years.



The telecoms supplier who claims to understand every kind of business.

Business is so varied, and organisations so different, no telecoms supplier can be familiar with them all.

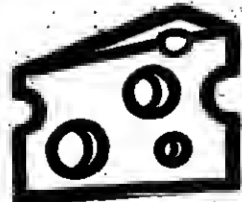
That's why, at Racal Telecom, we focus on a realistic number of sectors, and give customers the very best solution from our range of voice and data services.

We offer dedicated sector teams in transport,

Government, retail, banking, insurance and finance, and manufacturing. Each one has extensive experience and fully appreciates how telecoms can drive those businesses.

For corporate telecoms you can believe in, call our response line on 08700 007 007 or visit our Web site.

Racal Telecom Phoenix House, Station Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1NB. www.racaltelem.com



one account is a bank account but not as we know it.

If you have, or are about to buy, a home with a mortgage of at least £50,000, then give us a call on 08458 000 001 to find out if we're right for you. The Virgin One account. It's no small change.



The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information or a written quotation at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Information is required. All calls are recorded and may be monitored. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Life Insurance is required. Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland.

# Weathermen's vital war role is to get wind of nuclear peril

By Valerie Elliott  
Whitehall Editor

BRITAIN'S weather forecasters would play a crucial role in the event of nuclear war, according to papers deposited at the Public Record Office. They would assess the spread of any radioactive fallout spreading across the country by monitoring the wind.

changes in the atmosphere, which would help to plan aircraft operations.

The secret role to be played by the Meteorological Office is disclosed in plans drafted in the 1960s. The importance of its work is made clear: "The safety of millions of people may depend on the measurements of upper winds."

A buff file contains instructions for all Met Office staff at time of

war. It reveals that some staff might have to subject themselves to high levels of radioactive fallout in order to warn the rest of the country. One official wrote: "No great permanent harm would result from a dosage of 75 roentgens if absorbed slowly." But the top-secret memorandum makes clear that in an emergency staff may be expected to face doses of up to 200 roentgens.

The official advice says: "Whole-

body doses approaching 150 should not be incurred without vital operational justification." The memo also says that "staff should not take suicidal risks to obtain data since they constitute a valuable part of the defence organisation and would be difficult to replace."

B. C. V. Oddie, a former senior Met official, advised that all stations should be equipped to maintain a state of siege lasting more

than a week. This would include moving in emergency food rations, beds and materials for covering windows.

Mr Oddie listed a series of public warnings that would be activated "in a state of tension". A red code would alert a continuous siren indicating an immediate danger of attack and for the public to take cover. A grey code would also be signalled by a siren or church bells and warn of a fallout

within one hour. In Scotland, however, they might have to manage by verbal or whistled messages. A black code would be sounded by maroon, a gong or whistle and would mean imminent danger of a fallout. A white code would also be triggered by a siren and assure the public that there was no further danger.

The papers reveal plans to move the main weather headquarters from Bracknell to Gloucester in an

emergency. If there were time, key staff would be drafted in to the Gloucester base, otherwise officials on site would follow instructions in a secret manual. They would communicate by teleprinter and would have no access to land lines or facsimile.

The file reveals that a most important role for the emergency centre would be to predict and warn of gales, preferably within 12 hours.

# Intelligence officers who waged battle of the sexes

Released papers disclose troubles of the Admiralty's 'Secret Ladies of Room 30'. Valerie Elliott reports

WOMEN intelligence officers who tracked Hitler's U-boats during the Second World War faced their own battles at the Admiralty. The plight of "The Secret Ladies of Room 30" is documented in papers deposited at the Public Record Office at Kew.

The tensions among naval intelligence staff inside the building known as the Citadel were the subject of a secret report. Rear-Admiral Sir John Godfrey, Director of Naval Intelligence, wanted to improve arrangements for men and women officers working together.

Discrimination and poor training were the main complaints of the women as they strove to interpret the Enigma codes and to track German submarines. It is clear, however, that Sir John trusted women more than men to keep national secrets. As the

head of an intelligence section, one Mrs Stewart, put it: "By giving a woman the responsibility of a secret you enhance her importance in her job. But not outside her job for, apart from her work, she is first and all the time a woman. By giving a man the responsibility of a secret you enhance his importance in and out of his job ... It is obvious with whom lies the greatest temptation to talk."

But Mrs Stewart did not believe that women made the best managers of their own sex. Women "have a fine sense of cruelty where other women are concerned," she said. "A woman in power over other women is often dangerous." However, she added that

women's "mental contribution is distinctive and when of first-class quality indispensable."

The problem was that men often had no idea how to deal with a woman member of staff. Mrs Stewart thought: "Much of her work is intuitive and therefore incomprehensible to a man. She will appear impatient in the face of cold logic and hard reason ... Her outstanding merit is the touch of intuitive brilliance which makes all the difference between inspired and merely pedestrian intelligence work."

Some women had left their jobs because they could no longer tolerate the male attitude, she noted. "Not a few were either lost or antagonised by a degree of quarter-deck

manner of which any service officer would take no notice."

But a Mr Woolf felt that senior male officers discharged their duties admirably. "Women should be employed in the capacity of an assistant," he opined. "I have found that women prefer to work under the leadership of a man; he is generally more tolerant and less inclined to impose petty restrictions."

"A man of a mature age understands the demands on their sex - physical, mental and moral - and has a kindly thought for what I venture to suggest is all too easily forgotten these days, that after all despite so-called sex equality women are still the gentle sex and should be treated accord-

ingly." He plainly doubted the ability of women to cope. "Ladies who have lived sheltered lives and who had been waited upon from birth could scarcely be expected to get down to a real job of work. They invariably cracked both mentally and physically."

A woman intelligence officer who said that she had been passed over for training remarked: "My presence as a woman was resented because my status as a potential equal threatened an established monopoly." She was not taught key code words nor the arcane details of traffic-breaking.

But the thrill of the job made up for it. There was the tremendous satisfaction, she said, of bringing off a forecast and sharing in the success of a brilliant interception - of saving lives - above all of pitting one's brain against the enemy and winning."



David Phillips, now 78, is to travel to France to meet the prayer book's rightful owner

# Old soldier gives back widow's family heirloom

LANCE-CORPORAL David Phillips spotted the gilt of the gilt-edged prayer book as he sought sanctuary in a bombed-out French abbey during fierce shelling in the aftermath of the Normandy landings. Hoping it would bring him some much-needed luck, he tucked it off and tucked it into his pocket.

Now, after 54 years of safe-keeping, he has tracked down and reunited Henriette Huard, an 89-year-old widow, with the family heirloom she had long since given up hope of seeing again. Mr Phillips, 78, said yesterday: "I can clearly remember the day I found the prayer book. It looked so beautiful lying there amongst the rubble."

"I left I couldn't leave it behind, despite the mayhem and gunfire all around, so I took it with me. It obviously brought me luck and after the war it took pride of place on my bookshelf. But I'm delighted that it is finally back in the hands of its rightful owners."

On June 26, 1944, Corporal Phillips spotted the gilt of the gilt-edged prayer book as he sought sanctuary in a bombed-out French abbey during fierce shelling in the aftermath of the Normandy landings. Hoping it would bring him some much-needed luck, he tucked it off and tucked it into his pocket.



Phillips in 1944 he was a lance-corporal

Phillips and fellow members of the London Rifle Brigade stormed a hill at Cheux. Hundreds of British troops were killed. A local farmer, M Antoine, and his 12-year-old daughter, Odille, helped to bury them.

Three days later Corporal Phillips, then 24, was with the remaining 11th Armoured Division that stormed Carpiquet, near Caen. Desperate for cover, he dived into the re-

mains of the Abbey Ardennes, where he stumbled across the prayer book.

In the years after the war Mr Phillips, now a retired animal feed merchant of Sand, near Wedmore, Somerset, decided to return the book. He discovered that the guest of honour at a reunion of the London Rifle Brigade was to be Odille Antoine, now 65.

He passed the book to Odille, who tracked down Henriette Huard (nee André), whose initials HA were inscribed on the book in 1919. The book itself held a clue to the owner's identity - a communion card inserted in 1940 when it was passed down to her daughter Elizabeth.

Now Mr Phillips is to travel to France to meet the mother and daughter, of Gonnevillersur-Mer near Cabourg, Odille, who handed over the prayer book, said: "The dear old lady immediately recognised the book she was given as a present at her confirmation in August 1919. You can imagine her astonishment."

# BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE OF MOBILE PHONES

# The Link

## NEW

Cellnet weekend calls from as little as

# 1p per minute

Calls cheaper than ordinary telephone calls\*\*

### Save up to 50% on Cellnet Motorola Mobs

## HALF PRICE StarTAC

### MOTOROLA DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Compact, lightweight folding design
- Up to 140 minutes talktime/40 hours standby
- Fax and data compatible
- 90 name and number memory

Model: StarTAC 70

Was £49.99\*

# £24.99\*

Plus £35 for Connection

## HALF PRICE

### MOTOROLA DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Sends and receives short text messages
- Up to 140 minutes talktime/55 hours standby

Model: D520

Was £9.99\*

# £4.99\*

Plus £35 for Connection

## HALF PRICE

### MOTOROLA DUAL BAND PHONE

- Vibracall silent alert
- Voice memo facility - record up to 3 minutes of messages

Model: CD 920

Was £79.99\*

# £39.99\*

Plus £35 for Connection

## OVER £100 WORTH OF FREE ACCESSORIES

- Hands-free Kit
- Traffic Line Unit
- In-car holder/case
- 4 'AA' batteries

SAVE OVER 50%

### MOTOROLA DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE

- Up to 302 minutes talktime/50 hours standby
- 90 name and number memory

Model: D770

Was £49.99

Now £24.99\*

Plus £35 for Connection

## BRITAIN'S BIGGEST RANGE

Choose from over 50 handsets.

## EXPERT ADVICE

to recommend the right network, tariff and handset.



## GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES

We won't be beaten on price.\*

147 STORES NATIONWIDE

Freephone 0500 222666

For your nearest store or to order direct

# The Link

TO FIND THE RIGHT MOBILE - FIND THE RIGHT LINK

# Want A mortgage that saves you £25,000 and puts you in control?

If you're looking for a mortgage that you can adapt to meet your needs, here's an attractive solution.

- Interest calculated daily, which means you can pay less interest and pay the loan off sooner.
- Save even more time and money with our flexible repayment options by increasing your monthly repayments or making a lump sum payment.
- Give yourself a break from your payments when you need it, or use your mortgage to buy something you have always wanted, like a car (if you've paid more than the minimum repayments).
- Variable interest rate of just 8.2% (8.6% APR typical).

Phone A Mortgage saves you time and money. For example, you could save £25,724.50 interest and repay 7 years and 7 months early by simply increasing your monthly repayments each year by 2.0% on a £60,000 mortgage. This is compared to our 25 year standard repayment mortgage for the same amount. Of course, it's up to you, you can control your mortgage to suit you.

So, if you want all the benefits of a flexible mortgage, call now. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 9.00pm, and at weekends from 9.00am to 6.00pm.

## PHONE A MORTGAGE

Call now 0800 783 85 83

Call may be recorded or stored for training purposes. Please contact us on 02940 294999. Minimum quotations are available for new borrowers only. All loans require a professional valuation. We offer 95% loans for first time buyers and 90% for existing property owners, based on the value of the purchase price or valuation, for loans of 90% or above. Mortgage Guarantee Insurance is required. Interest rates may vary which could affect repayments. Typical example: a Flexible Repayment Mortgage of £60,000 over 25 years with an interest rate of 8.2% (8.6% APR typical) would cost £209 gross monthly payments corresponding to £276 net in the first year where other payments are increased by 2.0% each year resulting in 17 payments each of £485.94, £495.85, £505.84, £515.87, £525.95, £536.08, £547.21, £558.31, £569.31, £580.30, £592.30, £604.34, £616.34, £628.34, £640.34, £652.34, £664.34, £676.34, £688.34, £700.34, £712.34, £724.34, £736.34, £748.34, £760.34, £772.34, £784.34, £796.34, £808.34, £820.34, £832.34, £844.34, £856.34, £868.34, £880.34, £892.34, £904.34, £916.34, £928.34, £940.34, £952.34, £964.34, £976.34, £988.34, £1000.34. Total amount payable £172,272.73 including a valuation fee of £150 and estimated solicitors fees of £750.25. Phone A Mortgage is a service provided by Yorkshire Bank PLC (Registered No: 17745 England) Registered Office: 20 Market Way, Leeds LS2 9SZ. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Yorkshire Bank

سكزا من الاصل

# Thatcher backs Hague over ballot on Europe

Agreement was reached over dinner at Ritz, reports Philip Webster

BARONESS THATCHER yesterday threw her backing behind William Hague's decision to confront his pro-European critics by balloting the Conservative Party over the European single currency.

It emerged that Lady Thatcher was among the first to learn of Mr Hague's surprise plan to bring the issue to a head before next month's conference. The Tory leader told his predecessor about his intentions when he and his wife Fiona dined with Lady Thatcher and her husband Denis at the Ritz last Tuesday night. Tory sources disclosed yesterday.

The long-planned evening began with drinks at the Thatchers' home in Belgravia. They moved on to the Ritz for what sources called a long and enjoyable discussion on the political scene.

In all the Hagues and Thatchers spent four hours together. Over claret and beef Wellington he outlined his idea to attain a settled policy on Europe, reached as he travelled in Colorado last month.

Mr Hague followed up the dinner with a call to Lady Thatcher on Sunday confirm-

ing that he would announce his ballot plan the next day.

Yesterday Lady Thatcher, who has made clear that her preference would be to rule out the single currency for all five rather than the two parliaments specified by Mr Hague, urged all party members to back him and "stand up for Britain".

As Mr Hague launched his campaign with a warning that defeat would mean the Conservatives could be out for a generation, Lady Thatcher said that his policy was backed by the majority of the public.

But she again made clear that she would go further. Lady Thatcher said it would "spell the end" of the Tory party if it did not pledge to keep the pound. She declared: "It is unthinkable that we should fight the next election without a clear policy on the European single currency. And it would spell the end of the Conservative Party if we did not pledge to retain the pound and so maintain control over our destiny as a nation state."

Mr Hague, speaking at Central Office last night, declared it would be "disastrous

for both the party and Britain if the membership failed to endorse his policy of going into the next general election campaign opposed to monetary union. Backing the Shadow Cabinet's Eurosceptic policy would be a key to regaining power.

Tories from the Left of the party have reacted angrily to the ballot, which they see as a bid to sideline their views. But they have insisted they will carry on campaigning on the single currency, regardless of the outcome of the poll.

Ballot papers are to be sent out to the 300,000 Tory party members in two weeks in time for the result to be announced before the conference starts in Bournemouth on October 6. Mr Hague is expected to win a resounding victory in what will be seen as a call for a personal endorsement of his leadership.

Last night he warned party activists: "For the Conservative Party, the stakes could not be higher. If we lose this

ballot, we could be out of office for a generation. If we win this ballot, then we can look forward to a recovery of our political fortunes and victory at the next general election."

Mr Hague added that if he lost the ballot, "the whole debate about the single currency and the economic and political future of Britain would go by default. The majority view of the people of Britain would be unrepresented in Parliament."

"The Government would abolish the pound at the earliest opportunity and there would not be a single political party prepared to stop them."

Beginning a "Deciding to Win" tour of Britain in the run-up to the ballot, he told activists: "I will show why this policy is right for Britain and right for our party. I will win this ballot." Another aim of the ballot was to stop the infighting over Europe which had haunted the party for years.

Letters, page 23



David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, with his guide dog Lucy, visiting Colegrave primary school in East London yesterday, where he launched a renewed drive to raise standards in schools and highlighted action to lower class sizes

## Brown drops TUC visit for Japan trip

By Philip Webster

GORDON BROWN yesterday announced that he was puffing out of next week's TUC conference to go to Japan for emergency talks on the Asian financial crisis.

The trip comes ahead of next month's International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Washington. The UK also currently holds the rotating presidency of the Group of Seven leading industrial economies, and Mr Brown is meeting all G7 finance ministers beforehand.

Mr Brown said the new global economy meant that his "discussions with finance ministers over the coming weeks and our meetings together in Washington next month will be of particular importance".

Treasury sources said that Mr Brown had spoken to John Monks, the General Secretary of the TUC, who fully understood the importance of the visit to Japan.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, claimed Mr Brown was running away from his critics at home.

## Pro-Europeans keep powder dry

By James Landale, Political Correspondent

THE ballot effectively became a one-horse race yesterday after pro-European Tories decided not to campaign against the leadership.

They believe there is no point getting involved in a ballot which the party leader will win overwhelmingly because it will be more a loyalty test than an assessment of grassroots opinion. Many leading pro-Europeans - including Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, and Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary - will not even vote.

The sole pro-European involvement will be a bland leaflet sent out with ballot papers. A similar leaflet putting the case for the Shadow Cabinet position will also be included. Neither leaflet will be signed or attributed, although the pro-European case is expected to be drafted by John Gummer, the former Cabinet minister and chairman of the Conservative Group for Europe.

The hub of the pro-European wing of the Tory party is an umbrella organisation called Conservative Mainstream. The board, chaired by Michael Heseltine, comprises the leaders of four pro-European and left-of-centre Tory ginger groups - Mr Clarke, Mr Gummer, Tony Baldry, Tory MP for Banbury, and Michael Welsh, the former Tory MEP, Lord Renton of Mount Harry, the former Chief Whip, is the treasurer.

Justin Powell-Tuck, the group's 27-year-old director, will play a key role in the battle to promote the pro-European position. The next stage will come later this month at a regional conference held in Manchester.

The Westminster wing is Parliamentary Mainstream. Led by Mr Baldry, its loose membership comprises only MPs and peers, including David Curry, Sir George Young, Stephen Dorrell, Sir Patrick Cormack, Tim Boswell and Edward Garner. Its up-and-coming pro-European Tory MPs include Damian Green and Bob Walter.

Also under the Mainstream umbrella is the Tory Reform Group, which has Mr Clarke as president. The group's chairman is Damian Garrido, 30, a barrister and formidable campaigner.

Pro-European Tories in the grass roots are also represented by the Conservative Group for Europe, led by Mr Gummer, which is part of the party's formal structure. Although Mr Hague and other senior Shadow Cabinet figures are technically members, the CGE is a growing hotbed of pro-European campaigners. One key figure is Stephen Woodward, the group's 32-year-old vice-chairman. He is also director of the European Movement, Britain's leading cross-party pro-European pressure group.

The fourth group under Conservative Mainstream is the Action Centre for Europe, headed by Mr Welsh, which is the focus of Tory business leaders. Its chief role is holding conferences and publishing pamphlets.

Although not formally part of Mainstream, a fifth group called the Positive European Group will play a key role in co-ordinating pro-Europeans at Westminster. The group, known as PEG, is led by Sir Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe, and is solely made up of Tory MPs and peers.

## Dorrell launches One Nation drive

By James Landale

STEPHEN DORRELL will today launch his campaign to reshape "One Nation" Tory politics for the millennium with a call on William Hague to provide a fresh vision for the future.

The former Tory leadership contender will deliver a blunt rallying cry for the party to do more than just oppose Labour and instead put forward its own programme for the next century.

His speech to left-of-centre activists from the Tory Reform Group in London is the first in a series designed to set out a new approach for the party so it can provide a real alternative to Labour.

Mr Dorrell offers a thinly veiled attack on Baroness Thatcher's prediction that the Tories will not win the next election.

"There is a lot of deterministic nonsense spoken about the result of the next election," he will say. "The result is wide open. The election will be won by the party which offers the most convincing vision of the future for Britain."

win if we simply wait for the wheel of fortune to turn or rely on a backlash against Labour created by disappointed expectations."

He will say that the Tories should not underestimate the extent to which voters are disenchanted with the party: "We have to show that we offer a clear vision for the future which they find attractive."

"If we can show that we understand the changes going on both within our own society and the wider world... William Hague can be Prime Minister after the next election."

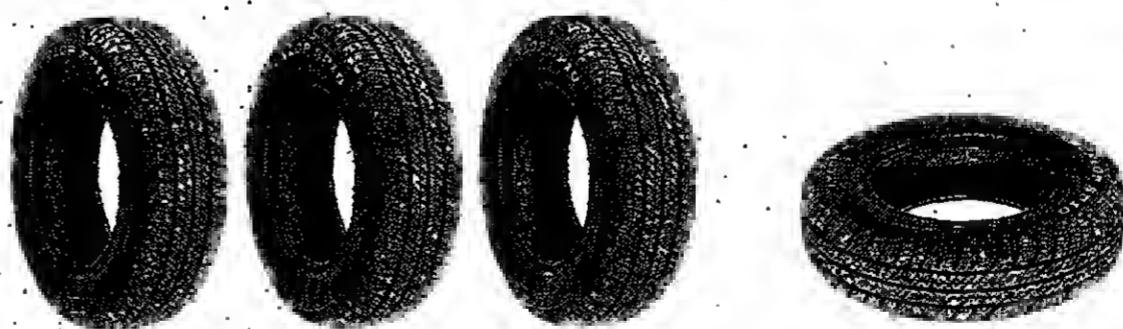
"But if we rely on tired slogans and the party political dogfight, we shall lose not because the task is impossible but because we didn't deserve to win."

The speech, entitled *Reclaiming One Nation*, will be the first in Mr Dorrell's tour of the Tory "rubber chicken" circuit. Mr Dorrell stood down from the Shadow Cabinet earlier this year to use the freedom of the backbenches to develop his own brand of Conservative thinking.

# Major service minor price.

## Save £20 on a Major Service!

- 76 point check.
- All makes of car covered.
- Parts and labour guaranteed for 12,000 miles or 12 months<sup>2</sup>, whichever comes first.
- All work carried out by qualified technicians.



## Buy 3 DUNLOP tyres and get the 4th FREE.<sup>3</sup>

	NOW	SAVE
Granada 2.0 GLX 1992 195/65x15HR SP200.....	£239.97	<b>£79.99</b>
Montego 1.6 LX 1990 185/65x14TR SP10.....	£155.97	<b>£51.99</b>
Astra CD 1.7D 1994-98 185/60x14HR SP200.....	£161.97	<b>£53.99</b>
Escort Pop 1990 155x13TR SP10.....	£98.97	<b>£32.99</b>

Pay nothing for 4 months when you spend over £100.<sup>4</sup>

Phone 0345 361 361 now for a quote.

**HALFORDS** WE GO THE EXTRA MILE.  
GARAGE SERVICING

\* 1 NOTE IF REQUIRED WILL BE CHARGED SEPARATELY. 2 THIS DOES NOT AFFECT FOUR STATUTORY RIGHTS. 3 ALL TYRES MUST BE IDENTICAL. AN ADDITIONAL CHARGE WILL BE MADE FOR VALVES AND BALANCING ON EACH TYRE. 4 EXTENDED CREDIT ALSO AVAILABLE. APR 34.9% (VARIABLE). WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. SUBJECT TO STATUS. ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS OVER 18 YEARS OF AGE. SPEND OVER £100 AND AFTER 4 MONTHS YOU MAY OPEN A RUNNING ACCOUNT CREDIT FACILITY. HALFORDS LIMITED, ICANFIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHINGTON WEST, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B98 0DE.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

□ Ageing and thinking □ Single-sex education □ Changing pronunciation

Boys held back by peer group pressure

BOYS might do better at school if they were taught in small groups, separately from girls, a researcher suggested yesterday.

Ann Phoenix, of Birkbeck College, London, said that schoolboys' views of what it meant to be a man were damaging their chances of academic achievement. Segregating boys in smaller groups might counter the peer-group pressure which was helping to make making boys lazy and troublesome in the classroom.

Dr Phoenix told the British Association's festival: "The story emerging is that to be properly masculine you have to be good at sport and not just any sport, particularly football. Also you have to be tough and confrontational. So being hard is really at the pinnacle of masculinity. And you have to be seen not to work."

This phenomenon had been noted among white, working-class, boys 20 years ago, but now it pervaded all social and ethnic groups and included boys as young as 11. "What has changed is that more middle-class males subscribe to a culture where schoolwork is not to be done and it is antithetical to masculinity to be seen to be working hard."

Dr Phoenix's research involved interviewing boys aged between 11 and 14 attending state, private, co-educational and single-sex schools, individually and in groups. Those who worked hard were derided as "swots", although some did devise ways to work hard and remain popular. "They are the boys who can laugh at their own achievements and answer teachers back. Better still if they can do football and fight," she said.

Dr Phoenix noted that in the past it was decided to separate girls from boys for some subjects because it was thought that they were being disadvantaged. "We need to tackle emotional issues directly with boys in smaller groups and think about the strategies which have been developed for girls. It seems to me that we may have to consider small-group teaching that will allow them [boys] to express things they won't express in big groups."

Simple test may help spot decline in mental ability

Reports by Nigel Hawkes and Nick Nuttall

TESTING how well people can balance is a surprisingly effective measure of age-related mental decline, the British Association meeting in Cardiff was told yesterday.

Pat Rabbitt of Manchester University, who is carrying out a long-term study of the effects of ageing in 6,500 elderly people in Newcastle and Manchester, said that the balance tests can predict 80 per cent of the age-related changes in people's thinking ability.

The effect was discovered by two German scientists at the Max Planck Institute in Berlin and has been confirmed by Professor Rabbitt. He suspects that the effect may be linked to the cerebellum, part of the brain that is involved in thinking abilities and balance. If the cerebellum began to deteriorate, both balance and thinking ability would be affected, he said.

For the past week he has been carrying out a small study in a Cardiff shopping centre, testing people of all ages on a series of mental tests and measuring their muscle strength as well as balance.

The purpose was to check whether deteriorating balance in the elderly was the result of declining muscle power rather than anything more fundamental.

The results, with those from the Newcastle and Manchester study, show that performance on the mental tests actually declines relatively slowly with age. Only a quarter of the differences between the people he studied could be attributed to their age. But of this difference, the balance test proved an accurate predictor, even when differences in muscle strength had been taken into account.

Professor Rabbitt used three balance tests: the best — the Timetti Clinical Scale — can be carried out by a nurse. It involves asking people to do such things as getting up from a chair, raising their arms to pick something from a shelf, and standing on one leg. A nurse trained in the technique

scores the test simply by watching how well people can perform these actions.

"I do not want to imply that anybody who has trouble balancing is losing their mind," he said. "Many older people have arthritis, which makes balancing harder. But this test could be useful because it would give doctors clues to look a little closer at particular individuals and see if they can find a reason for the changes."

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council yesterday announced a new research programme into ageing. It will spend £5.2 million on grants to 32 groups. Dr Alf Game of the research council, said it was clear that some age-related conditions such as Alzheimer's disease can potentially be prevented or treated.

While life expectancy had increased by up to 15 years since the 1930s, the years of healthy life had not increased as fast, leading to more years of disability. "To understand how more people can enjoy a healthy life for longer, we need to understand why ageing occurs," he said.



Perfect balance is a skill that deteriorates with age in line with thinking processes

IN BRIEF

Termite in need of a new image

The much-maligned termite is vital to the fertility of soil in tropical regions, a scientist claimed. Paul Eggleston, of the Natural History Museum, said that without termites the soil would be barren. Termites were the tropical regions' equivalent of the earthworm, digesting soil, recycling nutrients and aerating earth.

Dr Eggleston said that of the 2,600 species of termite only 200 could be considered wood-eating pests. The museum was working with poor farmers overseas to help to reform the termite's image so that more were conserved.

Princess's death focused emotions

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, provided a focus for a deep-seated need in millions for intense emotional experiences, said Gregory Maio of Cardiff University. Although many who reacted strongly did so out of sincere mourning, many others took emotional gratification from it. "Emotions are intrinsically satisfying," Dr Maio said.

Ocean clue to first microbes

A new clue to the origins of life has been discovered 3,500 metres under water on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. A "black smoker" — where hot brines gush up from the ocean floor — has been found to be a prolific source of hydrogen, the gas that must have fed the first primitive microbes, said Professor Joe Cann of Leeds University.

Lowest form of life is found

A British scientist has found the deepest form of life in sediments 847 metres below the Pacific seabed at Woodlark Basin near New Guinea. John Parkes of Bristol University has found 300,000 bacteria per millilitre of sediment and clues that they occupy underlying basalt. The finding adds to evidence that bacteria can live almost anywhere.

Why proper English is no longer a shore thing

SHIFTS in pronunciations mean that hardly anybody is left who speaks "proper" English and people such as Tony Blair adjust their accent to suit their audience, a specialist in phonetics and linguistics told the meeting yesterday.

Professor John Wells of University College, London, noted that "Tuesday" has become "chooseday", "sure" now sounds identical to "shore", and it is no longer true that all educated people speak with Received Pronunciation, the traditional tones of the elite.

Estuary English, the speech of London and the South East, is gradually influencing RP, he said. Mr Blair "demonstrated that he could move downmarker" when he used Estuary tones in an interview with Des O'Connor on television, Professor Wells said. This was an

example of trying to fit in with people by adopting their accents.

He has identified three phases of change in RP over this century. In the early part of the century, he says, people made a series of vowel shifts. The vowel in words such as "cloth" and "cross" switched from that of "thought" to that of "lot", and people

stopped making a distinction between "law" and "floor".

People also stopped using a tapped r-sound between vowels, as in "very sorry". He said: "Nowadays we listen with amazement to British films of the Thirties and Forties, made before these changes took place."

cooked yet?" The slips sound like real words, but aren't. Nor was Freud right to suspect that slips of the tongue reveal the hidden emotions of the speaker. "People who say 'I hate my wife' when they mean to say 'I love my wife' are not accidentally revealing their true feelings. It is normal to confuse closely-related concepts, confusing up with down, for example. It signifies nothing."

True slips of the tongue occur in all languages. Until recently it was assumed that they reflected an intrinsic feature of human speech, but Dr Garman has found that different languages have different types of slips — meaning they are language rather than speech-specific.

In the mid-20th century, words

such as "sure", "poor", and "four" started to sound identical to "shore", "pour", and "tore". People started to insert a t-sound into words such as "prince", making it sound like "prints", a ch-sound became respectable in words such as perpetual, and a j-sound in words like graduate. The glottal stop began to replace the t-

sound in phrases such as "quite nice, it seems". In the recent period, since the 1970s, the glottal stop is extending into ever more phonetic environments, such as "not only, but also", while the l in words such as "milk", "myself", and "middle", is turning into a w. Words such as "Tuesday" and "reduce" have acquired ch- and j-sounds, making them "chooseday" and "rujice".

Professor Wells, who conducted a pronunciation survey some years ago showing age-related changes, now plans a new survey and is inviting people to give their preferences for about 100 words, such as a shopping mall, the plural of youth, and the month February. Volunteers should e-mail him at j.wells@ucl.ac.uk, or write to the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics at UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.

**STAPLES** The Office Superstore

**LOW PRICE**

**ON 4 MACHINES IN 1**

**HP HEWLETT PACKARD** MODEL NO. HP335 S5U 291121

**1. COLOUR PRINTER** 600 x 300dpi colour, 600 x 600dpi mono

**2. FAX** Plain paper, 65 page memory

**3. COPIER** Digital zoom from 50% to 200%

**4. SCANNER** 24 bit colour scanner, 1200 dpi enhanced

**INCLUDES BLACK AND COLOUR CARTRIDGES**

**STAPLES PRICE £399** INC. VAT

**NEWLETT PACKARD INKJET CARTRIDGES**

BLACK - HP29A S5U 105229 **£20.99**

COLOUR - HP29A S5U 205200 **£21.14**

**46 SUPERSTORES OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK**

MON TO FRI 9AM - 6PM  
SATURDAY 9AM - 6PM  
SUNDAY 10AM - 6PM

**150% ULTIMATE PRICE PROTECTION**

**2 WAYS TO SAVE**

FREE STORE OR DELIVERED

FREEPHONE 0800 14 14 14

For your Nearest Store or to place your order

In a flap with your bank? Don't get mad, get £20

Open an Alliance Current Account and we'll give you £20 to help feather your own nest.

What's more, unlike other current accounts, there are no crazy overdraft charges, so switching to the Alliance Current Account could save you over £70 on a £200 overdraft.

The Alliance Current Account gives you access to your money at over 300 Alliance & Leicester branches, more than 14,000 LINK cash machines and nearly 20,000 post offices. So there's no more convenient way to bank.

The table shown compares our charges to other banks. We think you'll agree, ours make a lot more sense.

Moving to the Alliance Current Account is very easy with our free Switching Pack. So why not call today and fly the nest?

**Common sense in a crazy world**

**Alliance Leicester**

To get £20, call free today 0500 95 95 95

Quoting ref N465

All applicants must be aged 18 years and over and agree to pay a minimum deposit of £200 into their account. Applications and overdrafts are subject to status. Written quotations are available on request. These banking rates are credit, 1.0% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £5,000 and over. Interest rates are variable. Rates quoted apply to authorized overdrafts. \*To qualify for the £20 offer, you must fund your account within 2 months of the opening date. For clarity and transparency purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester plc. Registered Office: 49 Park Lane, London, W1P 4AG. Interest rates and charges quoted in MoneyWeek September 98 as follows: Barclays Bank Account 1.45% per month (18.6% variable) with monthly charges of £5, Lloyds Classic 1.45% (EAR 18.6% variable) monthly fee £5, NatWest 1.39% (EAR 17.8% variable) monthly fee £5, against Alliance Current Account rate of 0.55% per month (EAR 12.0% and no monthly fee). All information correct at time of going to press (September 98).



سكزا من الأهل



The British hostages, John James and Camilla Carr as they were before their abduction in Chechnya more than a year ago and, right, their haggard appearance in a short video released yesterday. In the first photographic evidence to emerge that the couple

are still alive and well. Russia's parliament released the short clip, which showed the two hostages looking tired but otherwise unhurt (Richard Beeston writes). "We can't make it too much longer," said Mr James, 38. "I don't know how long I'll stay

### Hostage video lifts hopes

sane." Miss Carr, 40, interjected with a smile, saying: "We will." Although the two hostages kept smiling during the film, the circumstances of their incarceration



in the war-torn Russian break-away region are clearly very tough. Suggesting that they are forced to remain silent during captivity, Mr James looked apolo-

getically at the camera and said: "This is the first time I've used my voice." The film was taken on August 24 and shown to the relatives of the two aid workers on Tuesday. The relatives said that they were encouraged by the video. "They seem positive and

that was tremendous for us," said Miss Carr's sister, Alexandra. The two aid workers, both trained psychologists, were working for the Centre for Peace and Development when suspected Chechen gunmen seized them from their offices in Grozny.

### Brussels backs airlines in Milan protest

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission set the stage yesterday for a showdown with Italy by declaring a new £700 million airport at Milan to be in breach of EU law and giving Rome one week to let foreign airlines stay in the old one.

The ultimatum, issued by Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, brought to a head a dispute over one of Europe's busiest airline hubs that pits the Government of Professor Romano Prodi against the Commission's determination to enforce fair competition on EU air routes. Rome has ordered foreign airlines to move next month to Malpensa, 35 miles from Milan, and allowed Alitalia to stay at Linate, the crowded old airport five miles from the city centre.

A defiant Signor Prodi yesterday denounced Brussels' action as "a typical case where Italian interests have been unjustly trampled under foot." Mr Kinnock said: "Brussels would not back down. It is my duty to uphold European law and, in this case, to protect the competitive interests of European air carriers and their passengers," he said.

The Commission backed a complaint from nine airlines, including British Airways and Air France, over an Italian decree that ordered foreign carriers to shift their operations while Alitalia will be allowed to stay. Road access to Malpensa is deemed inadequate and no fast train service will run for at least two years. This, the Commission agreed, gives Alitalia an unfair advantage.

Mr Kinnock said the Commission had allowed an extra week before outlawing the Malpensa plan because Rome had shown a last-minute willingness to negotiate.

### Mir is oasis of calm for cosmonauts

By ROBIN LODGE

IT MAY have taken a catastrophic economic and political crisis across the country to achieve it, but in one tiny outlying part of Russian territory, life is looking pretty good by comparison.

While Russians struggle with rising prices, shortages, depleted savings and an absence of political leadership, the two cosmonauts aboard the orbiting space station Mir, 250 miles above the Earth, have been enjoying a period of calm and order — after a succession of system failures and accidents last year.

Viktor Blagov, head of the Mir mission at the Flight Control Centre west of Moscow, was clearly enjoying the diversion from the criticism that has dogged his accident-prone project for the past 18 months. He told Tass news agency: "The complex has turned into an island of stability. The economic crisis has in no way affected the life of the cosmonauts."

Unlike many of their compatriots, the cosmonauts had everything necessary for life and work, Mr Blagov said, and their pay, which is calculated in dollars, will be issued at the current rouble rate when they get home.

## Yeltsin foes vie for leading role

Communists and nationalists offer variations on an authoritarian theme, writes Richard Beeston from Moscow

AS PRESIDENT YELTSIN dithered yesterday over naming a candidate to run his Government, his nationalist and communist opponents made open bids to fill the power vacuum at the Kremlin. Offering different variations of authoritarian rule, General Aleksandr Lebed, the former paratroop commander, said that if the country collapsed into chaos he would step in to restore order. Not to be outdone, the Communist Party, fresh from its parliamentary victory over the ailing Russian leader, issued a Marxist manifesto vowing to undo seven years of free market reforms and turn the nation back to a Soviet-style economy.

Speaking during a flying visit to Moscow, General Lebed, who has the backing of Boris Yezhovskiy, the powerful tycoon, said he hoped Mr Yeltsin would stand down and open the way for fresh presidential elections. "The paralysis of power in the country is obvious," he said, adding that he would "take responsibility for Russia" if the crisis worsened. His alarmist rhetoric was matched by Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party

leader, who described Russia's current political deadlock and economic crisis as "the most dangerous situation we have had since the Second World War". He said: "I do not want an uprising. But if there are organised protests we will lead them."

The flashpoint could come as early as October 7, when millions of workers are expected to take part in nationwide protest strikes. Although the rouble strengthened slightly, trading at 16 to the dollar, there is no plausible way out of the crisis before a stable and credible government is in place.

The Communists made it clear yesterday that if their candidates are represented in the next government, they will work to renationalise strategic industries, impose a monopoly on exports of raw materials, guarantee full employment and grant "most unfavoured status" to the speculative sec-



Zyuganov, prepared to lead organised protests

tor. A few weeks ago, the policy statement would have been dismissed as the rantings of a political dinosaur, but today the Communist Party is in a strong position to dictate the make-up of the next government, including who will be Prime Minister.

On Monday the Communist opposition in the Duma, the lower house of parliament, threw out Viktor Chernomyrdin's nomination for Prime Minister and put forward a list of their own candidates, most of them senior Soviet-era officials and serving members of the Communist Party. Mr Yeltsin, who is clearly fearful about putting Mr Chernomyrdin's candidacy in for a third and final vote, is still undecided. If his candi-

date was rejected he would be forced by the constitution to dismiss parliament. However, the Duma has already made it clear that it will not allow itself to be dissolved and instead will initiate impeachment proceedings against the head of state. That could lead to a repeat of the stand-off in October 1993, when Mr Yeltsin ordered tanks to attack the parliament.

As the political deadlock in Moscow continued, there were fresh fears that distant regions of the vast country were taking matters into their own hands in the absence of any central government control. Yesterday, Aman Tuleyev, the Governor of the Kemerovo region, in western Siberia, told locals that they could not expect any guidance or support from

central authority and imposed unilateral measures to control prices against hyperinflation. His coal-rich province became the 11th region in the Russian Federation to seize the initiative in the absence of federal authority. "If the situation with the federal Government is stalled and the federal authorities do not change their attitude towards the regions, the threat of a split in the federation will become more real by the day," said Mr Tuleyev.

Brbe charge: Vladimir Petrov, Russia's First Deputy Finance Minister, was charged yesterday with taking a \$800,000 (£300,000) bribe, a spokeswoman for the state prosecutor said. He is said to have taken advantage of his official position and conducted "unlawful activities" in the interests of Eskado commercial bank in return for the bribe. Mr Petrov, 44, is one of the most senior officials to be charged with corruption in post-Soviet Russia. If convicted, he faces up to 12 years in jail and could also have his assets confiscated. (Reuters)

Bank exposure, page 27  
Commentary, page 29  
Counting the cost, page 31

### Suicides reveal depth of economic woe

WHILE the world marvels at Russian stoicism in facing a catastrophic financial crisis which has wiped out savings for the second time in six years, not everyone is prepared to soldier on (Robin Lodge writes). This week the first reports of crisis-related suicides appeared. Interfax news agency reported the case of Valeri Petrov, a 50-year-old worker at a

computer company in Kazan, who hanged himself in his workshop after receiving only a small part of the wages owed to him by the company. Moskovskiy Komsomlets reported the case of Aleksei Kozlov, a 25-year-old driving instructor who gassed himself in his car after finding that his savings were so depleted that he could not afford his

fiancée's wedding dress. An 87-year-old pensioner hanged herself when she could not pay off her debts and left a note asking her creditors to forgive her. Russia's underfunded military will soon resort to baking its own bread to feed soldiers, only now receiving wages for June. There were reports in summer that they were eating canned dog food.

LEGAL & GENERAL FAMILY PROTECTION PLAN

# life assurance?

Here's a low-cost alternative.

£53,200 of life COVER FOR JUST 20p A DAY

Introducing low-cost term assurance from Legal & General.

Wouldn't it make sense to pay for life assurance only when you really need it? When your children are growing up, for example. Now you can, with the Legal & General Family Protection Plan.

For just 20p a day (subject to individual details), the lump sum is paid should you die during the term of the policy. For that premium,

a non-smoking man aged 30 could get £53,200 of cover for 15 years.

But the real advantage is you choose the term of the policy and the amount of cover you require or the monthly contribution that suits you.

So if you'd prefer life assurance that isn't a lifetime commitment, call 0500 33 66 66 or send for your personal, no-obligation quote today.

\*Equivalent to £6.08 a month.

Minimum premium of £5.00 per month equates to 17p a day. Full written details available on request. Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick the box in the coupon. Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name. Legal & General Direct Limited, registered in England No. 2702080, Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TR.

free £10 Interflora voucher

0500 33 66 66

Call now for an instant quote

For your protection, calls are usually recorded and randomly monitored.

Legal & General

trust us to deliver

# 266 Mobile Office

"The Best Notebook Deal in the UK"

Time cuts out the middleman to bring you this top spec notebook with crisp sharp TFT colour screen, massive 64Mb RAM memory, fast 4.1Gb hard disk storage, full 24x CD multimedia, the latest mobile Intel Pentium processor with MMX technology 266MHz and Windows 98. Everything for just £1269 +VAT!

Buy the Exec model and get 12 months interest free credit with nothing to pay until September 1999

**Time 266 Mobile Office™**

- Mobile Intel Pentium Processor with MMX Technology 266MHz
- 12.1" TFT SVGA colour screen (64,000 colours)
- 4.1Gb UDMA-33 hard disk
- 64Mb RAM
- 24x CD-ROM drive
- 1.44Mb floppy drive
- 128-bit 3D 2Mb graphics
- TV-Out for large screen TV
- 3D Wavetable stereo sound
- Built-in speakers & microphone
- 512K high performance cache
- IBM ViaVoice Executive speech recognition
- Microsoft Windows 98
- Over £800 of CD Software including Lotus SmartSuite Millennium

266 Models Only £1189+VAT=£1397.08

Product codes 266 300; 266 301

Carry case and 56k modem option available

Advanced Features are Standard

- EZ glide Touch pad pointing device and 84 key full feature keyboard
- NM-Battery and AC Power adapter/charger 100 to 240v auto sensing
- Intel 486TX PC class fully millennium compliant systems board
- All standard Ports including two USB Ports, TV-Out, midi/joystick, External SVGA, Zoomed video port, expansion bus, serial, parallel, infra-red port, PS/mouse, joystick/midi, 2 PCMCIA slots
- Diags, sleep and suspend modes
- Dimensions 297 x 230 x 48 mm, weight 1.6 kg

Pay Nothing Until Sept 1999 12 months interest free credit

Exec model only. Includes Microsoft Autoroute Express UK, 5 top games (RIP £145), joystick, headset microphone and over 13 CD multimedia titles. (RIP £235) for just £99 +VAT = £116.83 inc. VAT extra.

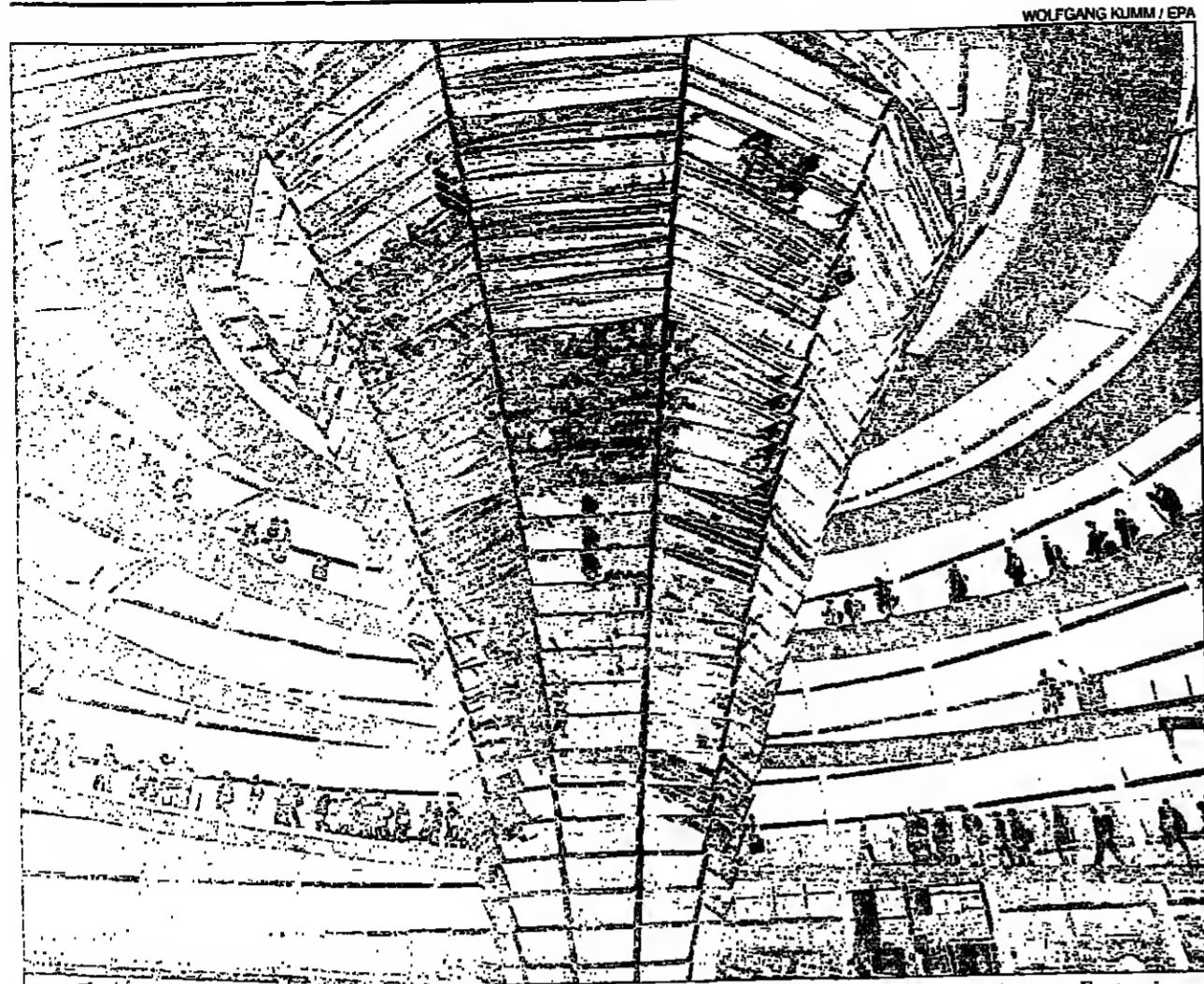
NO Deposit NO Payments NO Interest

Order Direct by Freephone Offer ends 26th Sept

# 0800 771107

we're on your side

0% on 26% TD 10



German politicians and journalists marvel at the glass cupola, designed by British architect Norman Foster, in the Reichstag building, the new parliament, in Berlin. The futuristic centre-piece is 75ft high and 131ft wide

# Kohl's man confronts handicap to power

Wolfgang Schäuble, in an interview with Roger Boyes in Bonn, unveils his future plans if Helmut Kohl refuses to head a grand coalition and retires

**W**olfgang Schäuble, the designated crown prince of Helmut Kohl, yesterday swore an extravagant oath of allegiance to the German leader in an attempt to squash speculation that the Chancellor was planning to hand over power soon after the election.

The Chancellor, said Herr Schäuble, was the outstanding leader of his time and there was no need to discuss the succession. "To get the euro through four months before a general election was an incredible achievement," Herr Schäuble said, and a clear sign of Herr Kohl's continuing skill as a leader.

After years of popular opposition to the scrapping of the mark, opinion polls now showed a significant majority in favour of the euro. "People do not much like it but have come to see it as a correct decision. That is the essence of

## GERMAN ELECTIONS



political leadership — not to stick one's finger up and see, which way the wind is blowing like [Gerhard] Schröder — but rather to make difficult decisions and convince the people it was the right move."

The Chancellor, if his Christian Democrat-Free Democrat Government is re-elected on September 27, would display

the same qualities in modernising Germany. Herr Schäuble, who is parliamentarily leader of the Christian Democrats, said:

Yet there is suspicion in Bonn that Herr Kohl is not forever. If he wins — still not impossible despite lagging behind Social Democratic rival, Herr Schröder, in the polls — he could choose to hand over to Herr Schäuble in mid-term, perhaps at the end of the German presidency of the European Union next summer, perhaps in 2000 with the political capital having been firmly established in Berlin.

If the Christian Democrats are only narrowly ahead and their Free Democrat partners buckle, then there could be a grand coalition with the Social Democrats. Herr Kohl would rather retire than run such a government. In a month, Germany could be led by a Herr Schäuble.

This prompts very personal questions about Herr Schäuble. Since October 12, 1990, when a psychopath shot him, Herr Schäuble has been paralysed from the chest down. He is confined to a wheelchair. Can Germany be ruled from a wheelchair? Herr Schäuble knows he can do it. "I've been holding down one of the toughest jobs in politics, 16 hours a day, and I know it is physically possible," he said on an earlier occasion.

**N**ow he is more cautious, for he does not know the answer to the second question: will Germans accept, would they vote for, a handicapped leader?

The uncertainty about this ruled out a pre-election handover of power — favoured by some younger Christian Democrat deputies who saw that Herr Kohl might be an electoral liability — and even a double ticket. Herr Kohl's face, eternally cheerful and statesmanlike, fills every election poster: Herr Schäuble is nowhere to be seen.

Soon after the shooting, Herr Kohl visited his friend in hospital and gave him a biography of Franklin Roosevelt, a sign that an active high-flying political career was still possible. Even with a physical handicap, Roosevelt had a slightly easier time of it. He could move on crutches. Herr Schäuble cannot. Television cameras did not expose Roosevelt's physical weakness, nor was he obliged to perform the endless international summitry that is now common.

The Foreign Ministry recently conducted a feasibility study and decided that a handicapped Chancellor would be presented only with technical problems which could be solved with imagination. The wheelchair could be given a more narrow access to allow Herr Schäuble free passage in the government air-

bus, conference tables could be made more accessible and the schedules of international meetings adapted to allow for the message of stiffened limbs.

Herr Schäuble himself has no doubts and while he now performs an elaborate ritual of loyalty to the Chancellor it is enough to read carefully his utterances over the past 18 months to see where his ambitions lie.

**T**he broadest hint came last autumn when he said in characteristic blunt fashion: "Can a cripple become Chancellor? I probably would not be able to resist the temptation." Last month he suggested that the actual length of Herr Kohl's future tenure was open. The Chancellor, irritated, replied that he was standing for a full four-year term — full stop, finish.

But there is pressure within the party for the Chancellor to go and make space for Herr Schäuble soon after he wins (or loses) the election. Herr Schäuble, as he made plain in the interview yesterday, is geared up to lead a strong reformist government.

The Kohl Government, he claims, is still on course for victory. "People have started to ask themselves about the Social Democrats: where is the substance? Their media show is good, thanks to advisers from Britain and the United States but in contrast to the Blair and Clinton campaigns there is no content."

A Social Democratic-Green government in the lower house of parliament, a Social Democrat-dominated upper house would shift Germany to the left and make it a source of instability, he said. "And now you'll have to excuse me — I've got to go and fight the Socialists to bear out some of my optimism." Herr Schäuble rolled out of the room, back onto the election trail.



The wheelchair-bound Wolfgang Schäuble with the Chancellor

## Wily Gaul wins epic battle with Asterix publisher

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

**T**HE creator of Asterix emerged victorious yesterday from a marathon legal battle with his former publisher worthy of the celebrated cartoon Gaul.

Albert Uderzo, the surviving half of the duo behind the series, filed a lawsuit eight years ago demanding that his publisher, Dargaud, surrender foreign rights to the first 25 Asterix books. M Uderzo said the publishers had deprived the authors of rights to the early books.

Asterix has sold more than 270 million books in 41 languages, including Estonian, Greek and Indonesian, and the legal dispute over publishing rights has proved far more tortuous and ill-tempered than any of Asterix's fights. In the latest instalment of the unhappy saga, the Paris court of appeal ruled in favour of M Uderzo and ordered Dargaud to surrender all rights to the books and pay Fr 5.5 million (£550,000) in damages. Quite apart from the fine, Dargaud, France's largest cartoon publisher, may be pushed into liquidation by the loss of the lucrative rights to Asterix.

René Goscinny, M Uderzo's co-creator and the original author of the

Asterix plots and text, died in 1977. His daughter, Anne Goscinny, sided with the publishers after initially taking M Uderzo's side against them. Under the ruling she will not receive a share of the damages.

Claude de Saint-Vincent, head of Dargaud, said it would appeal. "This is a hard blow for Dargaud, the loss of a bestseller, and I think in the medium-term it's a blow for French publishing if an author is allowed to escape from a very old contract for no good reason."

The cartoon publishing company may survive if the verdict is upheld, but barely, M de Saint-Vincent said. "We will lose 35 per cent of our turnover. We will try to pull through with a reduced structure" he said.

The long-running dispute almost killed off Asterix, for when a lower court ruled against him in 1994, a furious M Uderzo announced he would never draw another story, before later relenting.

The Asterix books, films and theme park outside Paris have made M Uderzo one of the richest men in France, and he guards his creation as carefully as Getafix protects the recipe for his magic potion.

FOR SALE



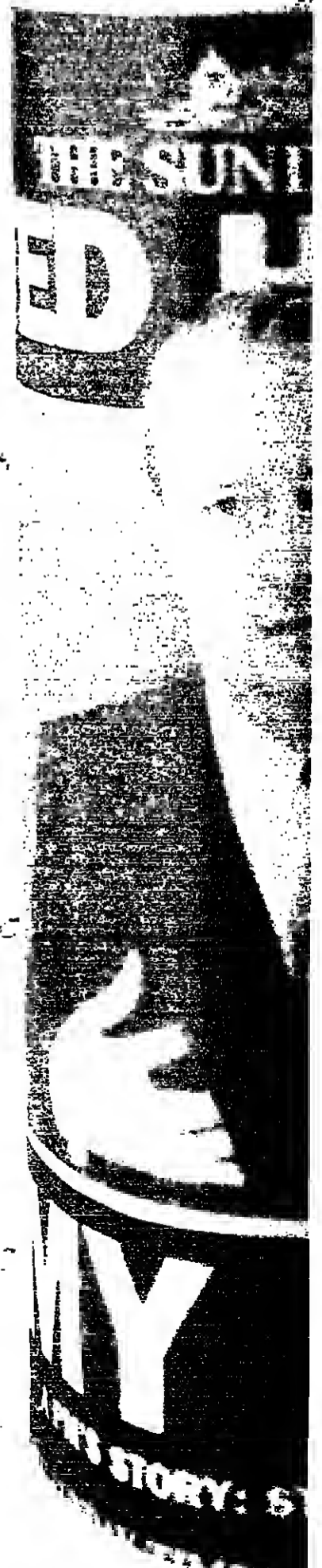
When you clean with the Panasonic MC-E587, nothing gets left behind. Because when it presses against the skirting board, a panel on the front flips up, allowing it to vacuum right up to the wall. White Edge-to-Edge Cleaning takes care of the sides. No more fiddling about with attachments, or moving the furniture. Then before the air is expelled again, the remarkable S-Class Filtration System captures 99.97% of dust particles, down to 0.3 microns. That's smaller than the eye can see. And when the dust content falls to a certain level, a green Dust Sensor light illuminates, so you know that your carpet is truly clean.

Which, with Front Edge Cleaning, means every inch of it. To find out more, call us on 0990 357 357.

**Panasonic**  
Vacuum Cleaners

سكزا من الأهل

Outposts  
Empire re  
Citizensh





# Outposts of Empire regain citizenship

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE Government is to restore full British citizenship to all its remaining colonies, ending a 17-year limbo status that has caused hardship, anger and resentment to thousands of people in the last outposts of the Empire.

An announcement is expected within the next two weeks that full British passports will be granted to about 100,000 people living in 11 dependent territories across the globe. Those living in Gibraltar and the Falkland Islands, the other two of Britain's 13 overseas possessions, are already full citizens.

They will all now be able to live and work freely in Britain, travel to the European Union without visas and enjoy full Westminster voting rights if they reside in Britain, though not in their own islands. Britons will not have the reciprocal right to move to the overseas territories, which fear being swamped.

The move comes after a promise in February by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, to restore full citizenship as part of a new deal for the scattered territories. In turn they will be required to clamp down on money-laundering and drug smuggling, abolish birching and capital punish-

ment and change certain human rights legislation.

The proposal ran into opposition at the Home Office. Before the handover of Hong Kong, officials opposed any change that might allow more than three million Chinese into Britain. But since 1997 they still fear that any restored right to live and work in Britain could dent Labour's stance on maintaining a tight immigration policy. The Home Office also wanted Britons to be able to move freely to any of the 13 territories.

Other government departments, worried about social security costs and effects on employment, also began haggling over the conditions. But Labour insisted that this was a moral issue, restoring rights that were arbitrarily removed in 1981 by the Conservatives' British Nationality Act.

The Bill will be welcomed by the 100,000 people scattered between Bermuda and Pitcairn Islands eligible for passports. Some, especially in the Cayman Islands and Bermuda, enjoy a high standard of living, thanks to the huge offshore banking sector; others are remote, poor and desperately in need of jobs.

St Helena, isolated in the South Atlantic, has high un-

employment and depends on a yearly £32 million subsidy from Britain. Granted perpetual citizenship by Charles II in 1673, it has been pushing hardest to get back the right to seek work in Britain. Without this, the 6,000 islanders feel imprisoned in an "Atlantic Alcatraz". Mr Cook insisted that no exception could be made for St Helena: either all the former colonies were included or none. The Government does not expect any large influx to Britain.

Issuing British passports may take a while. The Bill will have to fight for parliamentary time. But most territories have champions in the Commons and the Lords. Montserrat has won strong support after the volcanic disaster. For three territories, the issue is irrelevant: British Antarctic Territory, South Georgia and British Indian Ocean Territory are uninhabited except for research scientists and a few military personnel. Pitcairn, settled by the Bounty mutineers, now has only 58 inhabitants, and is hardly viable.

Britain held consultations with the dependent territories — now officially renamed United Kingdom Overseas Territories — before the summit meeting of their chief ministers in London in February. Bermuda, with almost 60,000 people, is the oldest and most populous of Britain's remaining territories, having been first colonised in 1609. It recently voted against independence.

All the territories have limited self-government, usually with an elected chief minister and a council. But the British Governor remains the supreme power.

Bermuda and several Caribbean territories have denounced what they see as Britain's attempt to threaten their tax haven status, and oppose any change in their laws allowing hanging and criminalising homosexuality. Mr Cook made clear that this is not open for discussion.



Lorries stranded on the flooded Dhaka-Chittagong highway where some have been stuck for a fortnight. The country has had two months of non-stop rain

# Bangladesh battles to save capital from flood surge

By CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Bangladeshi troops and civilians battled yesterday to save Dhaka, the capital, from being submerged by floodwaters after two months of unrelenting rain — the longest natural disaster in a country ceaselessly battered by calamities.

Two-thirds of the nation is under water and much of Dhaka has already disappeared beneath floods, forcing residents in large tracts of the city to move to rooftops or seek higher land.

The city was placed on full alert yesterday as a new surge of floodwaters threatened to break through a vital, ten-mile-long embankment protecting more than one million

of the city's nine million residents. The fight to reinforce the embankment, which is leaking at several points, went on through the night as torrential rain fell. There is no prospect of an early respite: weather forecasts indicate that the monsoon will not subside until next month. Much of northern India, too, is under water, devastating the livelihoods of millions of people dependent on monsoon crops.

Bangladesh, more a river delta than a country, floods every year, bringing nutrients down from the Himalayas and enriching the soil — a boon that turns to calamity because of deforestation in the mountains, leading to

silting of rivers and uncontrolled deluges. About 800 people have died in this year's floods, a modest toll compared to some of the disasters of recent years, especially in the hurricane season.

Millions are homeless and many streets in Dhaka now resemble rivers, with boats punting quietly down them in place of the usual rickshaws. "We are facing great devastation. Let us all fight this calamity unitedly," Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister, told parliament before it was suspended so that MPs could return to their constituencies. The Government has appealed for more than £500 million in international aid.

## WORLD IN BRIEF

### Shelling in Kosovo traps 25,000 refugees

Geneva: About 25,000 people, mostly women and children, were trapped by shelling on the roads of western Kosovo yesterday, the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said. An eight-mile column of people fleeing from villages in cars and farm vehicles was stuck between Krusevac and Isniq south of Pec, the UN said.

"They are panic-stricken," Paul Stromberg, a UN spokesman said. "They cannot move towards Pec. They can hear artillery shelling. They can see smoke rising from the villages and they are trapped between the mountains to the west and troop movements to the east." A massacre was feared if a shell fell among the densely packed vehicles. Albanian sources said Serb forces had attacked some 40 villages in western Kosovo, driving tens of thousands of ethnic Albanian residents from their homes. (AFP)

### New Burma sanctions call

London: Britain is to lobby its European Union partners to adopt a range of new sanctions against Burma in protest at the latest detention of opposition figures, including MPs-elect (Michael Binyon writes). The military authorities detained a further 108 people yesterday, bringing the number held since the weekend to more than 300. Britain wants more junta names added to a common EU visa blacklist, more done to discourage trade and investment, and EU tour operators urged to stop tourist visits to Burma.

### Terror extradition sought

Paris: Germany and Austria will both seek the extradition from France of Hans Joachim Klein, the accused terrorist and former accomplice of Carlos the Jackal (Ben Macintyre writes). Klein was arrested in a tiny village in northern France on Tuesday after 20 years on the run. A 51-year-old German national, he was detained in Sainte-Honorine-La-Guilleme, in Normandy, where he had been living under a false name for at least five years.

### Shia to die for blasphemy

Multan: A Pakistani court has sentenced a Shia Muslim to death on a charge of blaspheming the Prophet Muhammad. Ghulam Akbar, 25, who allegedly made derogatory remarks against the Prophet when having tea in a restaurant, is the first Muslim to be sentenced to death under the blasphemy law. Several non-Muslims have been sentenced to death, but have appealed to higher courts. (AFP)

### Zimbabwe seeks £720m

Harare: The Zimbabwean Government launched an international appeal for £720 million from Western donors to help to resettle blacks on white-owned farms, but it was instantly dismissed by the EU as too ambitious (Jan Ruath writes). President Mugabe said that delays in relieving pressure on overcrowded tribal areas would lead to anarchy.

### Nazi gold archives plea

Paris: A US State Department official has called on Russia and the Vatican to open their Nazi gold archives (Michael Binyon writes). Stuart Eizenstat's call came after a ceremony dissolving the Tripartite Gold Commission, set up by Britain, France and America 50 years ago.

### Joyrider's military lift-off

Oslo: A civilian stole a 40ft caterpillar-tracked armoured rocket launcher from a Norwegian military base and went for a night-time joyride around a local town before being arrested. The launcher, the type first used by British and US forces in the 1991 Gulf War, was not armed. (Reuters, AFP)



THE SUNDAY TIMES

# TED HEATH

MY LIFE

A PM'S STORY: STARTS THIS SUNDAY

The COOPERATIVE BANK

## At this rate, you could be on for another holiday.

# 8.6% APR

Guaranteed until April '99

The Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit and gold cards offer an introductory rate of just 8.6% APR, fixed until April. Even then it reverts to just 13.8% APR variable — one of the lowest standard rates available. With savings of up to £420\* in interest payments, this is an excellent deal for those who carry over a credit card balance each month. If that sounds like you, transfer your existing balance to us now. You can even keep your current credit card limit. Just call the freephone number below anytime.

www.advantage-visa.co.uk

Save up to £420  
No annual fee  
Just 13.8% APR variable from April '99  
Keep your credit limit  
No need to bank with us

0800 724 365

Please tick card interested in  Visa Card  Gold Visa Card

Full name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\*Based on a current balance of £1,000 over 24 months. Co-operative Bank Advantage Visa credit card at 13.8% APR has no interest free period and would cost £120.20. Standard Bank credit card at 22.9% APR would cost £120.20. Credit facilities are subject to terms. Where appropriate, an application is required. Information provided will be passed to one or more credit reference agencies for credit assessment, prior to an application form being provided. A copy of the terms may be obtained from The Co-operative Bank. Please note that the rate of 8.6% APR is only available to new cardholders. The rate of 13.8% APR is only available to existing cardholders. The rate of 22.9% APR is only available to existing cardholders. The rate of 13.8% APR is only available to existing cardholders. The rate of 22.9% APR is only available to existing cardholders.

# Baghdad 'possesses three nuclear bombs'

Former UN inspector claims that despite the information, no order has been given for a surprise inspection, reports Christopher Walker in Jerusalem

IRAQ is hiding three technologically complete nuclear bombs and is lacking only fissionable materials to make them operational. This is the view of Scott Ritter, the United Nations arms inspector who resigned on August 26. Mr Ritter made his claim at a recent meeting of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. It was published for the first time yesterday by Zeev Schiff, military editor of Haaretz, the Tel Aviv daily. The disclosure, and others about biological and chemical weapons held by Baghdad, came as another showdown between Iraq and the UN. Prakash Shah, the UN special envoy to Iraq, returns there today after telling the Security Council of his failure to persuade President Saddam Hussein to resume co-operation with arms inspectors. Iraq has refused since August 5 to work with the UN Special Commission (Unscm) set up to ensure that it dismantles any weapons of mass destruction in its possession. Baghdad has demanded that the UN body be re-

structured, its alleged US influence reduced, and its headquarters moved from New York to Europe. According to Mr Schiff's report on the claims by Mr Ritter, the longest-serving American weapons inspector, Unscm knows where the three nearly complete nuclear bombs are hidden. The UN team is also said by Mr Ritter to have information on the method used to conceal the bombs, the units and officers responsible for guarding them, and the types of vehicle employed to transport them in the game of cat and mouse between Saddam and the UN experts. Mr Ritter claimed that, despite the information available, no order was given to the team to conduct a surprise inspection of the site. He claimed that the Security Council and the Clinton Administration had blocked the work of the inspectors just as they were "on the doorstep" of uncovering Iraq's hidden non-conventional weapons of mass destruction. His revelation about the

existence of the three bombs has again heightened tensions in the Middle East and raised the stakes in any new confrontation between Iraq and the West. Israel has long believed that it would be the first target of any Iraqi nuclear strike. Yesterday Babel, the Baghdad paper owned by Uday, Saddam's eldest son, issued a warning that, if the resolution were to be adopted, Iraq would boycott the Security Council. Mr Schiff, reporting Mr Ritter's disclosures, said: "Unscm inspectors also came up with evidence suggesting that Iraq carried out biological weapons tests on human beings in 1995." No details are available about this allegation. It is not known, for instance, if prisoners of war were involved in the test. "Ritter also discovered that Iraq had deliberately reported an exaggerated number of chemical bombs that it had used in the [1991 Gulf] War. The reason: so that Baghdad could hide thousands of such bombs and seven tons of chemical components."

Iraq claimed on Tuesday that a new report by Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, that his arms experts had been barred from three sites was politically motivated and a lie aimed at discrediting Baghdad. The inspectors have to be satisfied that they have accounted for Iraq's weapons of mass destruction before sanctions imposed in August 1990, when Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait, can be lifted. Haaretz quoted Mr Ritter as revealing that proof also exists that Iraq has been manufacturing chemical weapons outside its borders since the Gulf War. He said that Unscm wanted to pursue this lead in Sudan, but its mandate limited its activities to Iraq. The paper added: "Unscm inspectors believe that Iraq has between five and 12 Al Hussein ballistic missiles. The Iraqis dismantled some of these missiles in 1997 and scattered the parts so that they can be quickly reassembled. Baghdad also has parts for another 25 similar missiles."



Scott Ritter, the chief UN weapons inspector in Iraq who resigned at the end of last month, claims the location and method of hiding and transporting the near-complete nuclear weapons are known to the inspection team

## Britain and US flounder over policy on Iraq

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

BRITAIN and the United States are struggling over an effective strategy to restore Iraq co-operation with United Nations weapons inspectors, amid the claims that Baghdad is hiding components for three nuclear weapons. British and American diplomats were pushing the UN Security Council last night to suspend its periodic 60-day reviews of sanctions on Iraq to punish Baghdad for suspending co-operation with UN inspectors on August 5. The resolution would guarantee that Iraq had no prospect of any relaxation of the sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait until it allowed the inspectors to resume their work. But the two Western powers were forced by Baghdad's friends on the 15-nation council to promise in return a "comprehensive review" of Iraq's relations with the UN that could lead to new concessions once Iraq is back in compliance with UN demands. Seared by Scott Ritter's allegations that she has blocked UN inspections since last November to avert confrontation with Iraq, Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, yesterday hit back at the growing criticism of her policy. In a speech to war veterans

in New Orleans, she again signalled that the United States was ready with a military response if President Saddam Hussein of Iraq threatened his neighbours. But she left unanswered the question of whether Washington was ready to use force to compel compliance with UN inspections. "We have not taken any option off the table, including military force," she said. "The bottom line is that if Iraq tries to break out of its strategic box, our response will be strong and swift." She called her critics "sincerely wrong." Like Mrs Albright, Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, has also gone on a public relations offensive to cast doubt over some of the allegations by Mr Ritter, the former senior investigator he has hitherto only praised. Iraq and its friends, particularly Russia, have been pushing hard for the Security Council to switch the UN's work from the investigation of "disarmament" phase, that requires surprise inspections, to more passive long-term monitoring. Britain seems willing to entertain this possibility, providing Iraq resumes co-operation with UN inspectors and bans nuclear weapons research.

## Glamour gambles with Islamic wrath

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

SUPERMODEL Claudia Schiffer faces her toughest assignment next Tuesday when, in the face of fierce opposition from Islamic extremists, she is due to open the first casino on land that is controlled by Yassir Arafat's Palestinian Authority. As the Palestinian daily al-Ayyam publicised her acceptance of an invitation from the operating company Casinos Austria, Sheikh Harb Jaber, Jericho's leading Islamic preacher, vowed to do all in his power to prevent the huge \$92 million Oasis Casino complex operating. The bearded, blind cleric, whose first name means war in Arabic, said he would call on Muslims "to strike, to demonstrate, to do everything they can" to stop the joint venture. "I will call on them at midday prayers this Friday to stop this place, which is against the words of the Koran, which will be permitting the work of the

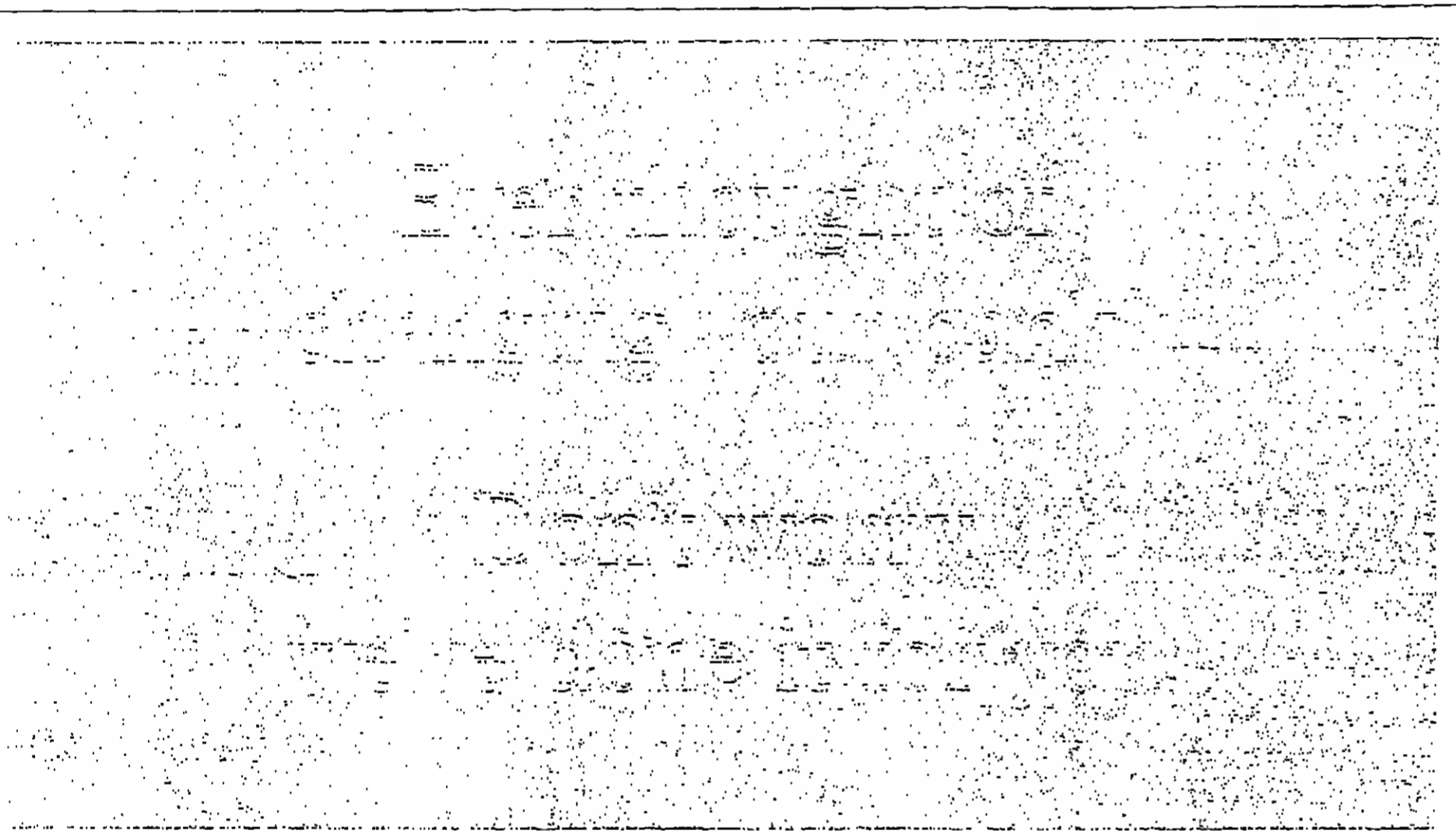


Schiffer opening casino in Jericho

Devil," said the sheikh. "I am aware of this foreign woman who is coming to open this enterprise. She is haram [forbidden by Islam]," he said. Ms Schiffer will have special protection at the opening, where she will roll a golden ball to start gambling at the 35 gaming tables and 220 slot machines.

HEALTH INSURANCE  
Could Prime Health give you better cover at less cost than your current policy?  
Call 0800 77 99 55 to find out.  
Prime Health Pay less for quality

to pro  
Beijing b  
death threat  
star whale  
WOOD FLOORS  
A difference...  
WOODSTOCK



A lot of people would give their bank more marks in the debit column than in the credit one.

So it's not surprising that, from time to time, they think about changing where they bank.

If only banks were faster in the way they did business.

If only banks were more flexible. Particularly when it comes to overdrafts.

If only they could be quicker off the mark and do away with all that red tape and bureaucracy.

Well, one bank is doing just that.

### CONCEPTS THAT ARE NEW

From October, when you pay a cheque into your Barclays Bank Account you'll be able to draw on it on the same day.

In other words, you'll no longer have to wait five working days for your money. (Ten days in the case of certain building societies.)

But how much, you're wondering, will this service cost? Actually, it'll cost nothing at all.

As a Barclays personal current account holder you can draw up to £1,000\* against an uncleared cheque on the very day you pay it in.

After all, it is your money, and as far as we're concerned you should be able to get hold of it as soon as possible.

It doesn't have to be a Barclays cheque either.

It applies to any cheque from any bank, paid in to any Barclays branch.

### EVERYBODY KNOWS WHAT WE MEAN

Every now and then most people go overdrawn. Nothing wrong with that, it's easily done.

It's the charges, however, that make them see red.

Hardly surprising really. Particularly when the amount that they are overdrawn by is merely a matter of a few pounds.

So, from October, we're introducing a rather different system.

Go overdrawn for three working days, or less, in a month and you won't get charged any fees.

Regardless of the amount.

Or you can be overdrawn by up to £20 for absolutely any length of time and still not get stung for any charges.

And if you already have an agreed overdraft limit, you can also exceed this by £20.

Again for any length of time.

Again without incurring any additional charges.

### MONETARY MATTERS

Time is money.

Well, it is if you're waiting days for funds to be transferred from a current account to a savings account where it would be earning you interest.

Which is why, from November, transfers between any two Barclays accounts are instant.

And when we say instant we mean instant.

We'll transfer funds in a fraction of the time it's taken to read this sentence.

Make a payment to another Barclays account holder, a family member or a friend, say, and the money will be there immediately.

And if you don't believe us, you can check your balance at a cash machine, as we'll have updated that at the same time.

Being able to transfer money instantly will also be useful when you've got your Barclaycard bill to pay. Post a cheque or use the giro system

like you usually do and you could end up missing the deadline.

(Not to mention incurring interest charges.)

Use our instant transfer service and the money's there straightaway.

### YOUR MONEY IS YOURS

Should you wish to pay a bill or after a standing order at 9.53pm tomorrow evening, you can.

Standard banking hours, we realise, don't always suit everyone.

Hence our Telephone and On-line Banking service. It allows you to do most of your everyday banking from the comfort of your own home.

And it's a facility that's available to you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

### CONVENIENT MATTERS

We've binned most of the paperwork you had to deal with every time you carried out everyday banking transactions.

From now on you won't have to wade through endless forms, or sign in triplicate, simply to change a standing order, for example, or stop a cheque.

Instead, a quick visit to your local branch or just a phone call will do.

You don't even have to write to confirm as your instructions will be implemented immediately.

### ADVANTAGES

As we said earlier, we've changed your bank.

And if you don't happen to bank with Barclays, perhaps you should change yours as well.

The number you should call is 0800 400 100.

سكرا من الأهل



RICHARD BRANSON: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY

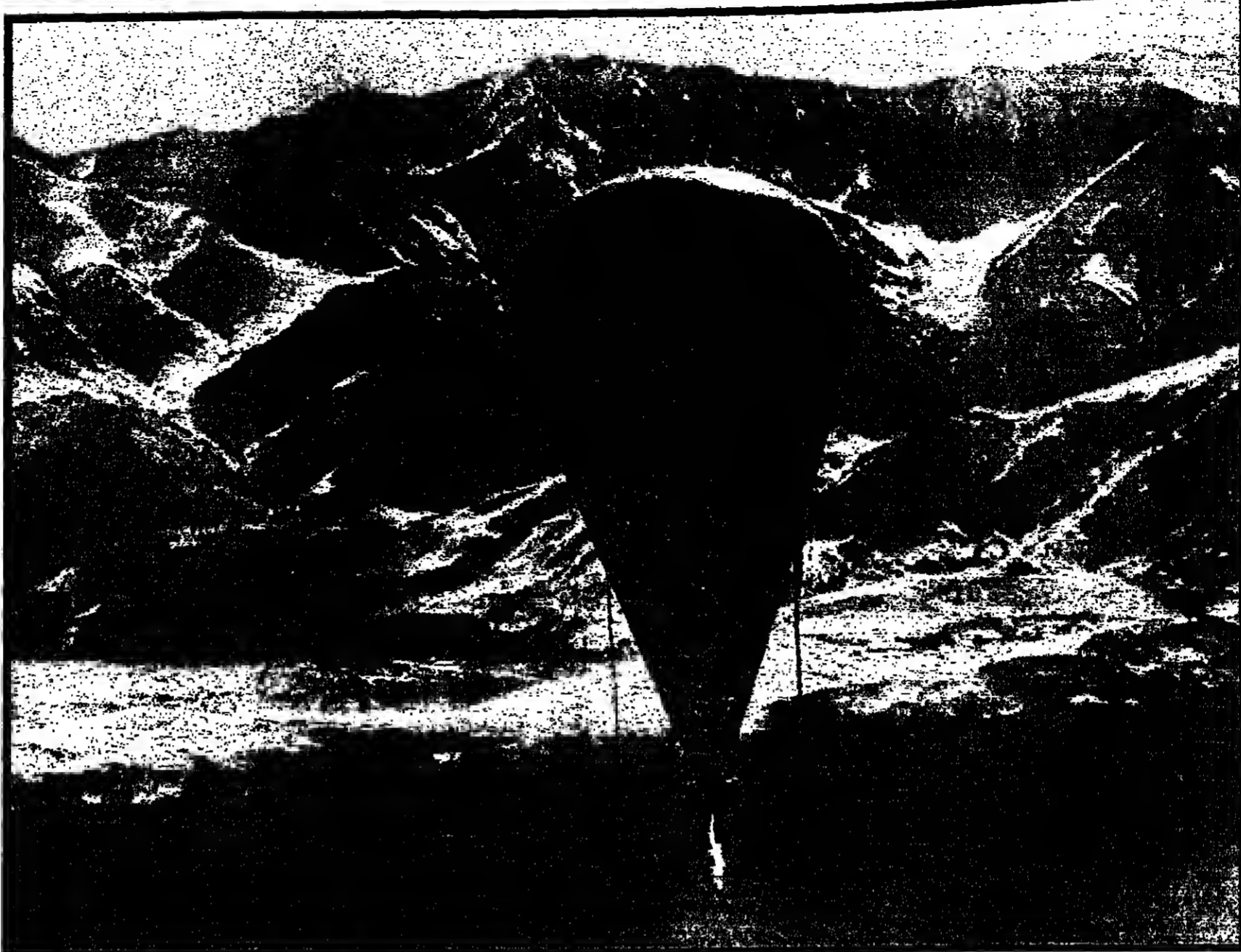
# What I did next would mean death or survival



In the fourth extract from his autobiography **Richard Branson** recalls his brush with death in the biggest balloon ever built and the telephone call that began his record-breaking partnership with Per Lindstrand

As we came out of the fog [in July 1987], I saw the foaming sea rising up to meet us. We were going far too fast. It was like trying to stop a Sherman tank without brakes. We hit the sea, and I went crashing into Per [Lindstrand]. The balloon dragged us across the surface of the ocean, bouncing us from wave to wave. "The bolts!" Per shouted. He hauled himself up. I tried to push him to his feet, but the capsule was smashing up and down. I watched his hand stretch out, grasp the lever and pull it down. This was supposed to fire the explosive bolts, severing the cables connecting the capsule to the balloon. In theory the balloon would sail off, leaving the capsule floating. But nothing happened. "Christ!" Per yelled. "The bolts are dead."

heaved himself through the hatch. "Where's your lifejacket?" I shouted. The roar of the sea blew my words back into my face. The balloon was lurching, one side plunging through the sea. Behind us we left a foaming white wake. Then a gust of wind caught us, lifting the balloon off the surface. Per threw himself into the water. The drop seemed at least 100ft. I was sure he'd killed himself. I hesitated, then realised that I was too late. Without Per's weight the balloon soared up. I almost fell over the edge of the capsule as it swung underneath the balloon. I grabbed the railing and saw the sea fall away beneath me. I was rising rapidly and couldn't see Per. I soared into thick cloud and lost sight of everything. I was by myself, flying in the biggest balloon ever built and heading towards Scotland. The wind was freezing; the sea below me was icy; and I was in thick fog. I had only the tiny emergency fuel tank left. I climbed back into the capsule and ran through the options: I could parachute into the sea, where nobody would be likely to find me, or I could sail up into the



Up, up and away — but not for long. Richard Branson's ill-fated Challenger balloon passes over the Atlas mountains. It later came down in the Sahara desert

darkening sky and try a night landing. The radio was still dead. I decided to take the balloon up high enough so I could parachute off the capsule. I blasted the burners, then found my notebook and scrawled "Joan, Holly, Sam, I love you". I waited until the altimeter showed 8,000ft, then climbed outside. I looked down. If I managed to open my parachute, I would still end up in the sea. There had to be a better way. I looked up at the vast balloon above me and realised I was standing beneath the world's largest parachute. If I could bring the balloon down, perhaps I could jump off into the sea just before we crashed. I had enough fuel for another 30 minutes. As I came out through the bottom of the clouds, I saw the sea racing up to hit me. I waited until I was just above it before pulling my lifejacket ripcord and hurling myself away from the capsule. IT HAD ALL dated from a phone call in the mid-Eighties. "It's Per Lindstrand," said Penni Pike, my assistant. "He has an incredible proposal."

I heard a stilted, Swedish voice. "I plan to build the world's largest hot-air balloon and fly it in the jet stream at 30,000ft." I knew he was an expert at ballooning and held several records. He told me that nobody had flown a hot-air balloon further than 600 miles, or been able to keep one in the air for longer than 27 hours. He wanted to create a balloon that would fly more than 3,000 miles. EVER SINCE we had abandoned our attempt the previous December, Per had been building the new envelope for the balloon that would attempt to take us across the Pacific Ocean. By early December 1991 it had been shipped to Miyakonojo to join the capsule and await a good jet stream. By January 14, it looked as if the flight might be possible. We started firing the burners. The pressure to lift grew stronger. Per fired the bolts that released the steel hawsers and we rocketed upwards. For the first few minutes we marvelled at our silent speed. We had six tanks of propane bolted to the capsule. The idea was that we would change the fuel tank when one was empty, jettison the dead weight and so fly faster. We decided to go down out of the jet stream as we dropped the tank in case anything went wrong. We had a video camera under the capsule pointing downwards: in effect, an extra window. Although we were 25,000ft above the sea, we could see the white tops and deep shadows of the troughs. I looked at the video monitor as Per pressed the button to release the empty tank. Suddenly the capsule lurched. "What's happened?" I cried. "No bloody idea."

I crawled back up to my seat. We were at an angle of about 25 degrees above the horizontal. Per checked the controls. I reran the video and watched what had happened when the fuel tank fell away. To my horror, I saw three tanks falling down to the sea rather than one. "Per, look at this." "Bloody hell!" he said. We had jettisoned one empty tank and two full ones. We had flown only around 1,000 miles and now had three tanks of propane rather than five to fly us across the most dangerous part of the Pacific. If we were to reach land before the fuel ran out, we had to fly at an average speed of 170mph, twice as fast as any hot-air balloon had ever flown. I asked over the radio about the conditions below. Mike Kendrick, the project manager, sounded agitated. "A cargo ship in the area says there's a strong wind and high seas. 'Atrocious' was the word used." Per leant over and asked Mike: "What do you mean by 'atrocious'?" "Over."

pick you up. There are waves more than 50ft high. Over." Suddenly the radio cut out. For the next six hours we had no contact with the outside world. The sky was pitch-black. I concentrated on the instruments. With just three tanks we would run out of fuel a thousand miles off the American coast and have to ditch in the sea. It could well be night-time. The only chance of our living was for me to fly the balloon in the core of the jet stream. I do not believe in God but, as I sat there in the damaged capsule watching the instruments, I could not believe my eyes; it became clear that we were flying close to the necessary 170mph. Before we had dropped the fuel tanks we had been radio contact with the local ground control, Watson Lake Flight Service. "Put your rescue beacon on," they said. "You're heading into a blizzard." At 750ft I opened the hatch. Snow rushed in. I climbed on to the top of the capsule. I shouted to Per: "Don't get too low. It's all forest. We'll never get out of there." I stayed there, shouting down what I saw: "There's a space ahead. Can you see it?" "Prepare for landing," Per shouted, and shut off the burner. I got back into the capsule and we headed down. Our groundspeed was 40mph when we crashed. "We've done it," I told Watson Lake. "We're all in one piece."



Joan Branson watches her husband take off

"Where are you?" "On a lake surrounded by trees." "It's frozen, it's quite safe," said a laconic Canadian voice. "But there are 800,000 lakes in your vicinity and they've all got plenty of trees." We had landed more than 150 miles from the nearest road, in an area 200 times the size of Britain. "We've flown 6,761 miles," Per said with weary triumph. "We flew for 46 hours and 6 minutes, making our average speed 127 knots, 147mph. We've flown farther than any other balloon has ever flown." "I'm dying for a hot drink," I said, "and a log fire. And a sunny beach. Why aren't we in California?" "Next time it's the ultimate flight," Per said. "Round the world."

WELL, WE TRIED it in 1997 and came down in the Sahara — not the yellow sandy sweep of dunes that you'd expect; the earth was red and rocky. Alex [Richie] and I sat on the roof of the capsule, marvelling at the dawn as it broke over the desert. Within minutes of our landing some Berber tribesmen materialised. At first they kept their distance. We were about to offer them some water when we heard the roar of helicopters. The Berber vanished. Two helicopters landed close by, and soon we were surrounded by soldiers with machine-guns. For a moment they stood still, then curiosity finally got the better of them and they came forward. As I looked at the capsule, I remembered my vow that I would never attempt this again. Yet at the back of my mind I knew that, as soon as I was home and had talked to the other balloonists who were trying to fly round the world, I would have one last go. It's an irresistible challenge and buried too deep inside for me to give up.

Edited extract from *Losing My Virginity: The Autobiography by Richard Branson*, to be published by Virgin Publishing on September 17 at £20. Times readers can buy it for £18 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990 134459. Copyright Richard Branson 1998

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

With over 2,000 pages, 1,000 images and 60 multimedia files, the Window on the World CD-Rom is a must for anyone living on our planet. And it's free with this week's Sunday Times Magazine. Don't miss it.

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

**Tomorrow**  
*'I predict that you will either go to prison or become a millionaire' — life at school, and how Virgin began*



Chat for up to 2 hours to Australia or New Zealand, and pay no more than £7.50.

Catch up with the foreign news by switching to Cable & Wireless. Until 28th November 1998 you can chat to Australia/New Zealand for up to 2 hours on alternate Saturdays for no more than £7.50 for the call. It only takes a phone call to switch to Cable & Wireless — so why not give us a ring now?

FreeCall 0500 200 973  
What can we do for you?

CABLE & WIRELESS

سكزا من الأهل

# I'm just trying to get on with my job

As the ink was drying on the deal that will give Manchester United unprecedented millions to lure the world's greatest footballers from the San Siro and Maracana stadiums, Alex Ferguson was to be found at Vale Park, in the Potteries.

The United manager spent the wet Tuesday night grinning his way through a match between Port Vale and Wolverhampton Wanderers. Those who know Ferguson say that this is typical of the man. No matter how much money a club has to throw around, he believes, in the end it all comes down to the 11 men on the pitch. In Fergie's world there is no substitute for scouting for fresh, young talent — whatever historic deals are being struck.

Asked for his opinions on the BSkyB affair, he responds almost as if it is none of his business. He is just an employee. He knows, he insists, only what he has read in the papers. With a shrug of the shoulders, he says: "I'm just trying to get on with my job. I know the fans are concerned, I understand that. The supporters are very important to this club, they have this incredible loyalty. But we can't know how it will pan out and affect everyone. We will just have to wait and see how things develop."

Despite the uproar over the sale of Manchester United, manager Alex Ferguson is happy to carry on doing what he knows best. Interview by Carol Midgley

PAUL COUSANS



Alex Ferguson clearly prefers talking about issues than about himself: 'It's very difficult to judge yourself. It takes a certain arrogance, don't you think?'

We will have to wait and see how things develop

And Rupert Murdoch? "I don't know him. You have got to know people before you can have views on them."

Ferguson, a millionaire, is famous for remaining determinedly down-to-earth and never losing sight of his roots in Govan, Glasgow. He began his working life there as an apprentice toolmaker. His family considered themselves lucky to have an inside toilet.

Ferguson's unwavering support for the Labour Party is well-known. His belief in socialism was strengthened by watching his mother dying from cancer in Govan's Southern General Hospital 11 years ago. The cladding was coming off the pipes and the staff were exhausted, he says. "No one should have to die in a place like that."

So where does a committed socialist stand on the Murdoch empire? I put to him a quote reported in the *New Statesman* last year when he said that Sky "sells supporters right down the river and his hardest at the most vulnerable part of society — the old". Ferguson does not dodge the question: "I think Sky has done a fantastic job. But some consideration must be given to people in hospitals or those who can't afford to pay for it."

Ferguson says he does not feel let down by Labour — yet. But he believes some ministers have let power go to their heads. "Before you get in (to government) there is this great unity... but once you get into power it changes," he says. "If they

could walk into a room and lock the door and work it would be OK, but when people get prominent profiles a lot get their own agenda. They don't stick to what they are good at — the thing that got them there. It's the same with all governments.

"It's like with football managers or players — you make mistakes and they are all magnified. Labour have made some mistakes but it hasn't dented my confidence in Tony Blair. I think he's doing a better job than anyone has for a long time. The NHS is a mountain. It

will take two or three years before big changes can be made... so we can judge it then."

Ferguson clearly prefers talking about issues than about himself. It is surprising, therefore, that he has allowed Granada to make a two-part documentary of his life, tracing it back to the days when his father worked in the Govan shipyards. There are rare insights into the real man that contrast with his dour Scots image (his mobilephone plays the tune to *Scotland the Brave*), and we see for the first time

his private relationships with his players, Cathy, his wife, and his three sons, Mark, Jason and Darren (who plays for Wolves).

His office at The Cliff, Manchester United's training ground, is filled with family photographs. When he saw early tapes of the programme, he expressed concern that he was seen swearing too much. "I didn't want to do it, to be honest with you. One of the difficulties for me was to get closely involved with it. But in fairness, it's about what other people are saying about me.

When people say 'how do you judge yourself?' I say: 'Me, judge myself? Don't ask me, ask others and you will get the proper story. It's very difficult to judge yourself. It takes a certain arrogance, don't you think?'

One of the stars of the programme is his wife, a fellow Glaswegian. Ferguson is away a lot but she has become accustomed to this. "I'm quite happy in the background. We can't all be superstars," she says. "When he's under my feet it's a nuisance. If he is here

too long he's in my road." Ferguson, 56, admits his wife's distance from football helps him to keep his sanity.

Eighteen months ago the couple discovered a mutual passion — horse racing — and he has since bought five racehorses. Ferguson says of his wife: "She is the counterbalance. She brings everything into perspective. She doesn't place football anywhere near as important as family life, whereas my life is football, you know. It's good that, very good."

The horses help him to release pressure, something he had been unable to do until recently. "If you are 25 years in this bloody job, you have to have a release or you are just going to end up playing cards like the men in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. As you get older you can't go on like that."

Ferguson almost chokes at the suggestion that he might ride himself. "Are ye kidding? I've no even ridden a donkey on the beach. My grandson thinks I bought the horse for him. When he comes over he makes for the garage straight away and I have to say 'No, it's no here.'"

When we spoke, coincidentally at the same time as the deal was being struck, he said he had no idea what was happening with the sale (sources say he received the news later by phone). He said that he had not spoken to Martin Edwards, the club's chief executive, "for a couple of days".

But he clearly has sympathy with the protesting supporters. "Some come to watch training every day, come what may, whether it's the youth team or the reserve team. It's incredible loyalty. Don't forget this club won nothing for 20 years and they were still there."

Ferguson, a rigid disciplinarian who is at his desk by 8 o'clock every

I shan't retire. I have plenty of damage to do

morning with a mug of tea and a slice of toast, believes the jobs of both manager and player have changed. "It used to be a simple game. Managers didn't do an awful lot. It was come on lads, enjoy yourself, work hard, you know, all the clichés. Journalists used in go for drinks with players, no problem. But there is instead news on TV. Newspapers can no longer break the news, so they need the background story. Many journalists are under pressure. They are on short contracts and they need headline news."

Ferguson recognises that he will have to slow down soon but dismisses any idea of retiring. "I'm coming into the last lap of my life. I've been through all the playing part and the adulation, and being chased for my autograph. But I shan't retire. I have plenty of damage to do. I don't believe in retiring. It's against the law in America to force people to retire at a certain age. You have to remain active."

On Monday Ferguson will travel to Blackpool to talk to pensioners at the TUC conference. Many of them write to him about all kinds of subjects — such as berating him for throwing chewing gum on the floor. "They give you a few home truths," he says. "Did you know that local education authorities don't give free education for OAPs any more? Put that in your paper."

● The Alex Ferguson Story. ITV. September 15, 10.40pm

## Smart socialising is essential to business success, says Lucy Hawking

It is difficult to be a social butterfly when you have the manners of a slug. Without the light touch that flutterbys possess, the rest of us squelch through social occasions hoping not to embarrass ourselves rather than expecting to shine. But sometimes we find that hope is not enough.

One evening stands out in my mind. Chugging up to the steps of a smart London restaurant in a minicab got the whole thing off to a bad start. The handle of the Nissan Cherry came away in the door-man's hand when he tried to prise it open, which meant that I had to scramble over the front seat to get out. Entering the restaurant with a bruised plate of canapés to distribute.

Having established that I was invited and not the hired help, I proceeded nervously into the room. Spotting two in tweedy-looking types in the corner, I bumbled over and, by way of introduction, made a famous comment about money. One of the tweeds roared and said: "Hello! I'm Richard Dawkins!" The other piped up: "Hi! I'm Terry Pratchett." They were, in fact, the only famous people in the room and I had hailed them with an inanity which I followed up — what loved your last book — what was it called? Oh, the shame, the shame.

I was, at this point, a perfect example of the most frequently cited social fear: that of looking foolish in public. And ing foolish in public while it seemed misfortune had caused this lack of social grace, in fact, according to Susan Croft, a trainer and public relations consultant, I had opened myself up to disaster by leaving my evening to chance. Preparation is key, says Susan, who runs training courses in smart socialising

# Succeeding at company parties

for business success. While to many, the idea of homework before a party is complete anathema, to others it may be better than standing in silence when asked a simple question. And better still than giving an inane, garbled answer.

"Don't just show up. Plan your presence," says Susan, who came up with her strategy to help her to overcome her fears. "Find out who will be attending, think of a way to introduce yourself. If you can, do it with humour."

Had I done a smart socialising course, I would have built a knowledge bank. I would have known relevant facts about other guests and would have made some devastatingly clever remark. I would have had a pithy two-liner about myself and what I did, thus effectively lifting me through troublouspot with equilibrium and grace.

Doing a course to improve your party demeanour might seem trivial. "Some would rather be doing double-entry book-keeping," says Susan. But now that more business deals are struck in social settings, the art of good manners is making a comeback. With employees expected to use parleys to network and create business opportunities, the pressure is on to perform outside work hours as well. "Some companies now ask for party reports," says Susan. "Not just 'gnt drunk, had a good time.'"

For some lucky people, networking at business parties seems effortlessly graceful. But the less blessed strugglers



Planning your approach to a party can help you to handle it

may find the consequences of their behaviour are greater than an empty address book.

"It could be damaging to your company if you didn't work the room," says Susan.

The low-key course can take as little as an evening. Susan gathers between eight and 20 applicants, sometimes from the same company or from different organisations, in an informal setting. "It could be a cocktail party or a wine and cheese evening," she says. After a 30-minute talk on key tips, which, depending on requirements, may cover etiquette for business people abroad, they go to dinner.

where they are expected to make use of what they have heard. At dinner, everybody must find out something about somebody else without asking directly. At the end, they discuss what they have discovered and what they feel they have gained.

If introducing yourself smoothly is one skill, politely getting away is another, and one that professional partygoers would relish help with the most. Cornered by a Cocktail Party Bore, one of seven types to avoid that Susan has identified, you might find your networking hampered by loud and dull conversation. Another

er is the Rabbit on the Headlights: "Very, very nervous, limp and sweaty handshake. And would prefer to be elsewhere." Or the Limpet might target you as the friendly face and suck to you all evening. Women might find the attentions of the Lounge Lizard overbearing.

Two others are closely linked. Married to the Buffet clings to the table all evening, relentlessly filling up on food and unable to speak because of a constantly stuffed mouth.

The Suspect Alcoholic pulls the same trick with booze, getting drunk and drunker.

The Homing Pigeon is confident and chatty — but only in the company of colleagues, whose side HP does not leave all night.

Finding yourself stuck with any of the above will ruin your evening even more than a personal faux pas. The trick is to extricate yourself without hurting anybody's feelings. "You might spot someone you know and introduce them," says Susan. Then, you slope off, leaving your colleague with the horror.

Or, Susan suggests, that you could ask them to leave you for a few moments as 'you need to prepare a talk you are giving' — though this one should be used with great care if you are not, in fact, giving a talk.

"You might say 'I've been so pleased to meet you but you'll forgive me, I'm sure, as there's someone there I need to speak to'. Nobody will be offended by that."

Unless they, too, have done a Smart Socialising Course. In which case they will know exactly what you are saying.

● Smart Socialising for Business Success, contact The Azic Corporation 0171-329 0225.

● Dr Thomas Stamford is away



### Our hotels are first class, but not our prices

BED & BREAKFAST £29 PER PERSON, PER NIGHT

ANY NIGHT	MIDWEEK ONLY	WEEKEND ONLY
Brandon, Warwickshire The Brandon Hall	Helmley, North Yorkshire The Black Swan	Banbury, Oxfordshire Whately Hall
Canterbury The Chaucer Hotel	Hereford The Green Dragon	Hertingfordbury, Herts. The White Horse
Cheltenham The Queens	Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire The Royal	Kingston, Surrey Kingston Lodge
Dunster, Somerset The Luttrell Arms	St. Andrews, Fife Rusacks	Romsey, New Forest, Hampshire The White Horse
Lincoln The White Hart	Ullswater, Cumbria Leeming House	Staines, Middlesex The Thames Lodge
Marlborough, Wiltshire The Castle & Ball		
North Berwick, East Lothian The Marine		
Padstow, Cornwall The Metropole		

## Heritage HOTELS

Individual hotels for every Individual

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Price shown is per person per night including accommodation, full traditional breakfast & VAT at 17.5% based on two adults sharing a standard twin/double room. \*Weekend only applies to Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. \*\*Midweek only applies to Monday to Thursday nights. Single supplement may apply. Breaks must be taken before 5th October, 1998. All reservations are subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at this promotional rate. This rate cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion.

# 0345 40 40 40

0345 40 40 40

Heritage is a division of Forte Hotels

# Tony Blair: saviour of the Tories?

Mary Ann Sieghart sees EMU entry uniting the Opposition

If William Hague could be granted a wish, it would be to heal the Tory party's divisions over Europe. But if he thinks that balling his members on the single currency will do the trick, he is sadly deluded. For the only man who can now unite the Conservative Party on Europe is Tony Blair.

A membership ballot will put the matter to rest for a few months. It will take Mr Hague over the party conference season and strengthen his leadership. The move looks bold and shows that he is serious about the initiative. But while the debate on the single currency continues to rage outside the Tory party, it can hardly cease for long inside.

This is not because either side has a destructive urge to tear the party apart. Both see themselves as saviours of the party they love. The Euro-enthusiasts argue that they alone can prevent it being taken over by what they see as a murky fringe. Their opponents see their path as the only true one. Yet the Tories will continue to argue only while there is something to argue about. This is where the Prime Minister comes in. While Britain is outside the single currency, and debating whether to join, the Opposition will remain mostly divided. If Britain joins EMU, the issue will instantly disappear as a matter of contention. There will be no going back. This time there will have been a referendum, unlike 1972-75, a period when the Labour Party contemplated leaving the Common Market after Ted Heath had taken us in.

So once Britain is in the single currency, the Tories will unite again. And there will be another new factor to strengthen the party. No longer will leaders of the Left, such as Kenneth Clarke, Chris Patten or Stephen Dorrell, seem anathema to MPs and activists. Mr Clarke nearly became leader last year despite his views on Europe; think how much more attractive he would seem if Europe were no longer relevant.

Both these changes should worry Labour. In my view, the economic arguments against joining a single currency in the foreseeable future are strong enough on their own. But politicians are politicians — and if Mr Blair looks at the partisan considerations, they are likely to influence him too. Does he really want to be the Labour leader who turned the Conservatives into an effective fighting force again?

We all know how damaging party divisions can be. They kept the Left out of power in Britain for 18 years. They kept the Right out of power in Australia for 13 years. They caused the demise of the Tories here last year. And they continue to contribute to the Conservatives' lamentably low poll ratings.

So does the leadership of Mr Hague. He has done little wrong since he took over the party, but there is a blandness about his personality that

## If Blair is criticised, he can be petulant and even paranoid

much else sustains him. His MPs see him as an alien transplant to Labour. Many of them do not trust him and many of his ministerial colleagues do not understand him. Only while he continues to deliver electoral success are they prepared to unite behind him.

When the polls begin to slip, the fall may be vertiginous. The Labour Party will become fractious and rebellious, and murmuring disloyalty from ministers will undermine the Prime Minister. Mr Blair personally is ill-equipped to deal with such pressure. So far he has known only success. When he is criticised, he becomes rattled and defensive. Unlike Margaret Thatcher, who thrived on adversity and almost courted unpopularity, the Prime Minister wants to be liked and could become petulant and even paranoid if his popularity slid. That in turn would worsen his problems.

Labour's current poll ratings are artificially high, thanks to the Tories' weakness. Some voters must be supporting the Government only because they still cannot entertain the alternative. If the Tories were to heal their divisions and move to the centre under a stronger leader, they could recover popularity surprisingly fast. It would be a painful irony if Mr Blair were to join the single currency to gain leadership in Europe only to find that he lost leadership of his country as a result.



# Farewell laissez-faire

Capitalism is not finished after all. It only took a word from Alan Greenspan, the Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, and Wall Street immediately recovered almost all the losses from last week's vertiginous fall. Share prices in Tokyo and Europe also enjoyed big gains and, more importantly, global financial markets reverted to a semblance of calm. All because Mr Greenspan uttered a series of banalities that everybody knew already. The Fed was closely watching the global financial turmoil and would take the appropriate action if and when required.

In the paucity of their informational content, these comments brought to mind the one famous joke made by the notoriously guarded Fed Chairman. During a congressional hearing, Mr Greenspan was thanked for being so clear in what he said. "If that is the impression I have given," he replied, "then I'm afraid I have been misunderstood."

Why, then, did Mr Greenspan's essentially vacuous remarks add hundreds of billions of dollars to the value of assets from Tokyo to Buenos Aires? Modern financial capitalism is an incredibly robust system. This is not meant to be a market forecast — for what it is worth, I still believe that stock markets will fall by another 20 per cent. But the financial crisis, even if conditions deteriorate much further, will prove no more than a pinprick for global capitalism. This was the obvious symbolic meaning of Tuesday's stock market bounce.

But the euphoric reaction to Mr Greenspan's soothing words had another, more controversial and definitely unintended, symbolic meaning. The markets were celebrating because the world's most powerful economic policy institution — the Federal Reserve Board — was publicly declaring that it would intervene to stabilise the markets if required. To put it in traders' parlance, the markets want someone to "take charge" — and similar sentiments are voiced around the world from Hong Kong and Tokyo to Frankfurt and Moscow.

Consider what this implies. It implies a recognition that capitalism can prosper only with the support of sound government — that political institutions have a legitimate and indispensable role in managing the capitalist system. The present financial

## Capitalism will survive global crisis. Free-market fundamentalism won't

crisis will do no permanent harm to the operation of reasonably free markets, but the global dominance of free-market fundamentalism, which was already waning after the political defeats for John Major and Newt Gingrich, is now in full retreat.

Market fundamentalism is an all-embracing philosophy which asserts that market forces, commercial competition and purely economic judgments should dominate decisions in all areas of political and social life — that political actions and even moral arguments which seek to restrain the unbridled pursuit of profit are damaging, futile and unnatural because they conflict with the "iron laws" of market economics.

The challenge to this ideology is symbolised by the markets' faith in Alan Greenspan and the Fed. Why do most people, like me, believe that capitalism is an incredibly robust system that will survive every conceivable crisis with a bit of help from the Federal Reserve, the European Central Bank and other policymaking institutions? It is certainly not because of historical experience, which has been marked by gigantic booms and busts, often accompanied by wars and revolutions, from the 18th century to the 1930s. The main reason for such confidence is that the world has not experienced any postwar economic crisis remotely comparable to those of the 1930s and before. What is more, such a crisis is very unlikely to hit global capitalism ever again.

This statement may seem absurdly hubristic. Now let me say something that sounds even more stupid. Future depressions will be avoided because our understanding of economics, inadequate though it is, has progressed enormously since the 1930s. This revolution in economic thinking is often attributed in Britain to Keynes, but like all intellectual revolutions since Copernicus, it was more the consequence of an historical conjuncture than the work of any particular man.

one particular new theory about countering depressions — "Keynesian" deficit financing — whose effectiveness has been largely overtaken by events. The much more important and enduring event was a permanent change in our way of thinking about the economic world — what historians describe as a "paradigm shift".

The real significance of this paradigm shift was the recognition that capitalist economies cannot always rely on pure market forces if economic stability and political consent are to be preserved. Governments must accept responsibility for preserving stability and managing macroeconomic demand. How exactly governments do this — through interest rates, taxes, currency management or whatever — depends on ever-changing conditions. But the fact that capitalism requires some degree of external management is impossible to dispute — and fortunately the imperatives of global capitalism's self-preservation invariably bring to play the forces of political stabilisation when the system as a whole is under threat.

That capitalism requires some management may seem obvious, but the political implications of explicitly recognising this could be vast. To take one example, the common political wisdom of the 1980s was that right-wing parties had a natural advantage in winning elections because voters believed that free-market parties were the ones that could make a market economy work. But if it is recognised that the capitalist economy depends on political management, then market fundamentalist parties will be treated with suspicion and parades of the Left might be seen as the better guardians of stability and prosperity in a mixed economy.

None of this means that the world is likely to revert to the discredited policies of nationalisation, protectionism and price controls. It does suggest a new style of politics in which all kinds of economic ideas will be open to discussion — for good and ill. It is impossible to say if this next phase of capitalist ideology will prove more or less successful than the market fundamentalism it displaces. What is certain is that the era of laissez-faire ideology is fading. Capitalism's own incomparable instinct of self-preservation will see to that.

## Anatole Kaletsky

# A very Scottish covenant

Magnus Linklater on a Highlander's lessons for Labour

I was, declared the lady in the tweed skirt, "a fine Edinburgh funeral". It had combined a proper degree of solemnity with a splendid gathering afterwards. There was "a good turnout", a modest supply of strong drink, and no lack of what the Scots call "crack", a word that translates limply as conversation, but carries a whole extra layer of animation. Alastair Dunnett, the newspaperman with the Highlander's ancestry, would have approved: he was, after all, a quintessential Scot. "In Scottish culture nothing beats a good-going funeral," he once said.

He would have appreciated the Presbyterian simplicity of the Canongate Kirk, with the morning sun lighting up the whitewashed walls, and the view through the East Window of the Royal High School where, as everyone knows, the new Parliament should have been. He would have liked the 121st Psalm, "I to the hills will lift mine eyes", and been pleased with the old Scottish Paraphrase or biblical hymn, *O God of Bethel*, which ends with the lines "And thou shalt be our chosen God and portion evermore". There was a reading from the great 18th-century Gaelic poet, *Duncan Ban Macintyre*, and the Scots version of the *Lords Prayer* which asks forgiveness for "debts" rather than respases — "as we forgive our debtors".

There was, I thought, a rustle of approval from the packed congregation when the Rev Charlie Robertson, the Queen's Chaplain in Scotland, read out a sentence from Dunnett's autobiography in which he summed up his feelings about his native land with the words "I have a Covenant with Scotland". Covenant is a peculiarly Scots word, redolent of Calvinist martyrs and a long line of unforgiving preachers. But in this case it conveys something of a life spent almost wholly in Scotland, devoted to Scottish interests, with an unshakeable faith in Scotland's abilities. As Editor of two distinctive newspapers, the *Daily Record* and *The Scotsman* in the days when a decade was considered a fairly brief stint in the editorial chair, he knew his own country backwards. He was 89 years old when he died, and had turned down three Fleet Street editorships to stay at home.

Some of his opinions now sound old-fashioned. But in a week which ushers in a critical period in Scotland's political history — one which he would have followed with the keenest interest — it is worth reviewing what he stood for, if only because his attitudes, particularly about England, still reflect a deep seam of Scottish opinion that is not generally reported. The Scottish Labour Party, which tomorrow relaunches itself with a new image, in an attempt to unite a divided nation, would find useful lessons in the Dunnett vein.

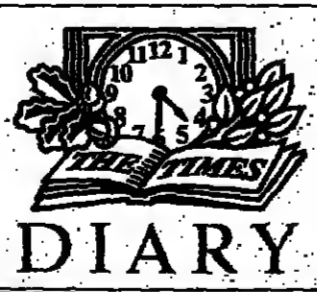
He had been deeply influenced by his wartime experience spent working for the greatest of latterday Scottish Secretaries, Tom Johnston, who laid the foundations of modern Scotland. Johnston had persuaded Churchill to agree to set up a Council of State, a non-elected precursor of the Scottish parliament. Using this to draw together support from local councils and MPs, Johnston created the hydroelectric industry, launched a national Scottish tourist board, set up a network of emergency hospitals, and exercised enormous power for the Scottish Office. Dunnett remained deeply impressed by what could be achieved in a small country if there was leadership and enthusiasm. Johnston "was of course a political nationalist," he wrote, "but far more important, he was determined that the immediate task should always be to get on with improving the place as you found it, and not wait for some millennium arising out of a political majority".

# Catholic taste

NEWS has reached Cardinal Basil Hume that Tony Blair received Communion during Mass while on holiday in Tuscany recently. Two years ago, Blair was criticised after it emerged that he had taken Communion with his family at St Joan of Arc Church, a Roman establishment in Ilington. The PM responded by saying: "If it causes difficulty or offence to people, I will stop." Last summer, I was told that Blair received Communion during the G7 summit in Denver. Technically, it would appear that our quixotic Prime Minister (pictured in Tuscany) has not broken the letter of Church of England law. "Eucharist hospitality" states that it is acceptable for an Anglican to take Communion in a Catholic church while away from home if no CoE establishment is close by. The nearest Anglican chaplaincy to the Blairs' holiday home was a bumpy car ride away in Florence. But Catholic diklat requires that if a Christian from another denomination shares Communion, he must believe that the bread and wine are the real presence of Christ. This rather legalistic kickstart to Reformation here in the 16th century. Friends of the PM insist, however, that there will be no conversion until he leaves office.

bar of the Marquis of Granby, in Westminster. Kemp's card had expired, leaving friends sated but the landlord £120 short. "I squared it straight away with the pub," Kemp assures me.

Set in stone  
NICHOLAS PARSONS or Emperor Marcus Nerva? This is the choice facing Gloucester, which has to decide between these two greats for a statue in the town. Mr Nerva, who was big in Rome from



sports fraternity with his novel approach to motivating his sleeper charges: a crocodile.

## Farmed out

NATIVES are restless on the estates of All Souls College, Oxford. The *alma mater* of John Redwood, William Waldegrave and other pensioners owns a farm in Edgware that it wants to turn into a golfcourse (which would offer a more lucrative harvest of club-wielders). It has applied for planning permission. But Mr Valkass, a farmworker who has lived in a tied cottage there since 1963, refuses to go.



"People have realised that you are leader of the Labour Party"

He claims that the college is letting his home disintegrate to bound him out, and he has Barnet Council on his side. It condemns the state of the farm, and says the college needs to spend £80,000 on repairs. "We will not be moved," says Mr Valkass's partner. "We will fight." Dr Bailey, the college's estates bursar, says: "I can see why he might think he is being eased out, but the buildings don't justify being repaired." That, doctor, depends on how one defines "justify".

SIR CLIFF RICHARD has a dark side. The purveyor of musical sludges has accused *Una Stubbs*, the actress, of being the devil woman who turned him to booze: "I started drinking wine when I did Summer Holiday in '62. I was outside on a beautiful night with Una and I tried some and liked it. Una got me hooked for life." It is not the first time Cliff has strayed from the path of righteousness: "I was actually thinking of getting involved with the occult when I was 21." Is he still going to Heaven? "I've been promised that." Lucky chap.

## Altered image

KATE MOSS pines for her Croydon roots. When the model (right) took Johnny Depp, her occasional boyfriend, home to meet her mother they had a jolly family "meal" of



bangers and mash. It seems the poor lass has had enough of catwalk life. "When I look at a billboard of myself in Times Square, I don't see myself any more, just an image of what someone is trying to advertise." Painful, self-realisation.

AT THE Ivy, Lady Antonia Fraser distanced herself from sniffy comments about Luke Johnson, the new owner (he made his money at Pizza Express). "He is my kind of owner. I have known him since before he was born."

JASPER GERARD



COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE September 9: The Baroness...

KENSINGTON PALACE September 9: The Duke of Gloucester...

Birthdays today Mr Thomas Allen, singer, 54; Mr Michael Buhdi...

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Thomas Sydenham, physician, Dorset, 1638...

Service luncheon 46th Infantry Division (1939-1945)...

Latest wills Arthur Jackson Stout, retired medical practitioner...

Luncheon

Chester Diocese



The Duke of York meets Lady Tebbit at the opening of the Aspire National Training Centre in Stanmore, northwest London, yesterday.

Public told to keep eye on past

THE public is being urged to keep a sharper eye out for evidence of our earliest ancestors as road and housing schemes threaten the remaining traces of evidence.

School announcements

The Mount School, York Autumn Term at the Mount School started today. Our Head Girl is Saira Sabir and deputies are Catherine Hande, Rebecca Hunter and Kate Robinson.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr A.J. Armstrong and Miss E.J. Campbell The engagement is announced between Adrian, son of the late Mr G.E. Armstrong...

Relics from Scott's polar expeditions to be sold WORN leather sled straps and brass coat-hook are among souvenirs from the heroic age of Antarctic exploration...

Marriage Mr S.A. Hockman, QC and Miss E. St Hill Davies The marriage took place quietly on August 22, 1998, at Hambleton Hall, Rutland.

Goldsmiths College Honorary Fellowships will be conferred upon Sir Brian Jenkins and Mr Brian Fearce at the graduation ceremony for students at Goldsmiths College, University of London, today.

St Paul's Knightsbridge Wilton Place Bishop Michael Marshall will preach at a special Sung Eucharist service at 11am on Sunday, October 11, to give thanks for progress with the church's £1.5 million restoration programme.

BMDs: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS On 5th September... DEATHS On 5th September...

DEATHS On 5th September... On 6th September...

DEATHS On 7th September... On 8th September...

MEMORIAL SERVICES FRANKLAND MOORE - Of... WANTED ALL CROCODILE articles...

150 من الاصل



OBITUARIES

COLONEL PATRICK STEVENS

Colonel Patrick Stevens, OBE, MC, Royal Marines D-Day veteran and Head of the Naval Law Division, Ministry of Defence, 1979-86, died on August 30 aged 76. He was born on November 25, 1921.



With that versatility for which the Royal Marines are noted, "Paddy" Stevens had a second career as a senior and influential civil servant in the Ministry of Defence — an unusual counterpart to his military exploits, not only on and after D-Day, but in several tense "brushfire" wars later in his career.

Entering the Royal Marines as a probationary second lieutenant in 1940, he served in the battleship King George V until appointed to 41 Commando, Royal Marines, in early 1944. It was with this unit that he landed in Normandy at 0625 hours on D-Day, June 6, 1944, in the teeth of fierce fire from the defending Germans. 41 Commando's Unit Diary recorded that their section of Sword Beach in the British sector "appeared a bit of a shambles, littered with dead and wounded, some bobbing in the shallows in their Mae Wests and bulldozers were working while mortar bombs and shellfire crashed down fairly regularly."

Stevens recalled "standing up, vaguely thinking it might calm people", while the commandos were pinned down by German machine-gun fire. Flail tanks finally cleared a path through landmines and the men of 41 Commando were able to make for their objective, a strong point in the small town of Lion-sur-Mer.

Here there was bitter street-fighting in which the commandos' advance was hampered by an inability

to call for naval gunfire support — all the naval signalmen had been wounded and their wireless sets damaged. Stevens and his section became separated from the rest by two German armoured cars, one of which he personally attacked with a hand grenade and destroyed, while the other was abandoned by its crew. On this first day of the invasion, 41 Commando suffered 123 killed, wounded or missing out of a strength of about 450.

Later, Stevens, now commanding a company, led a strong patrol against a heavily defended radar station at Douvres-la-Délivrande, blowing a hole in the barbed wire with a Bangalore torpedo — a pipe-like device full of explosives, designed specially for this purpose.

Stevens was promoted captain on the battlefield on June 7, and at the same time received the MC for his offensive spirit and bravery during these operations. The decoration was awarded to him personally by General Sir Bernard Montgomery a month later.

Stevens and 41 Commando subsequently took full part in the break-



D-Day: Stevens recalled "standing up, vaguely thinking it might calm people", as murderous German fire swept Sword Beach

out from Normandy, the pursuit across France and the difficult amphibious assault on Walcheren in November. While leading a patrol along the banks of the icy River Maas in February 1945 he received a bullet wound in the leg and, despite his protestations, was thought to be too brave for his own good and was repatriated.

Among his postwar appointments was a tour with 42 Commando in the Mediterranean, a period on the staff of the Royal Military

Academy at Sandhurst and some time as a student at the Army Staff College at Camberley. As a major he served in various regimental and staff posts until promoted lieutenant-colonel in 1963.

Stevens was given command of 45 Commando, at that time stationed in Aden. In January 1964 an unexpected situation developed in East Africa, with mutinies breaking out among the armies of the newly independent states of Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

Launched by helicopter from the aircraft carrier Centaur, 45 Commando, under Stevens' leadership and using minimum force, swiftly quelled the *askaris* of the Tanganyika Rifles. A single anti-tank rocket fired through a window of their guardroom at Colito was sufficient to restore stability to the region.

A tougher assignment was immediately to follow in the mountainous region of the Radfan in the South Arabian Federation, Aden had become a centre of British power

in the Middle East but, as a result of the revolution the previous year in adjacent Yemen, Arab nationalist agitation was becoming a problem for the British as well as the local British-backed rulers. Following the assassination of the assistant British commissioner, and other civil disturbances, operations were initiated against the dissident tribesmen, "each of whom thought himself a Sultan", and who were accepting Yemeni armed help against the Federation.

Stevens and 45 Commando executed a number of deep penetration tactics at night, appearing at the top of advantageous hill features at dawn, often in their own amazement as well as that of the tribesmen. The rocky terrain combined with the torrid climate required mountaineering technique as well as extreme physical endurance. On several occasions the available helicopter support was barely enough to keep the Commando re-supplied with water. For his remarkable contribution to these operations Stevens was appointed OBE (military division).

Staff appointments were succeeded by a tour in 1968 at the Imperial Defence College and a final tour in Brussels in the Operations and Training Division of the Nato international military staff.

There then followed 15 years in the Civil Service, joining at Principal grade in 1971, he managed the transition from a service to a civilian working environment and, having made his mark, was promoted to assistant secretary in 1977 and appointed Head of S4 (Air) in the Air Force Department. As Head of the Naval Law Division he was a valued adviser to the Admiralty Board and the Chief of Naval Personnel. He was a shrewd judge of unsatisfactory young officers who were under threat of removal by Order in Council, and his policymaking submissions were written with a pithy turn of phrase. This pith was evident in his domestic life, too, and his advice to his son, "Don't join the military, check the bill and never buy the cheapest wine," perhaps deserves wider circulation.

His first marriage to Brigid Timothy was dissolved in 1962. He is survived by his second wife Judy, the son and daughter of the first marriage and the three daughters of his second.

CARL BARRITEAU

Carl Barribeau, jazz player and bandleader, died in Sydney on August 24 aged 84. He was born in Trinidad, on February 7, 1914.

ALTHOUGH Carl Barribeau had lived quietly out of the limelight in Australia for a number of years, his death came just as his career as one of Britain's most accomplished jazz soloists and bandleaders of the 1940s was being widely reappraised.

Listeners to Humphrey Lytton's Best of Jazz series on Radio 2 have heard Barribeau's work played regularly over the past couple of months, and many of his best recordings were recently re-issued, notably in an anthology called *Carl Barribeau: the Man and His Music*.

Barribeau came to fame as a soloist with Ken "Snakchips" Johnson's band at the Cafe de Paris in London, having joined the band within days of his arrival in Britain in May 1937. Johnson's group of West Indian swing musicians was an uncompromising jazz orchestra. It made its BBC debut in July 1938, playing contemporary American arrangements by Adrian de Haas, and Johnson's extrovert singing and dancing brought large audiences to hear the band at the Cafe de Paris.

"I determined I'd make



Barribeau enjoying the company of friends: from left, the bandleaders Ted Heath and Johnny Gray, Barribeau himself and, at right, the comedian Derek Roy

them like swing at the Cafe or die in the attempt," Johnson told *Melody Maker*, "and, boy, I nearly died." Then, at the height of the band's success, Johnson and several members of the band at the club were killed during an air raid on March 8, 1941. Barribeau, although injured, survived, and assumed the mantle of the leading West Indian

soloist in London, working in turn with Lew Stone, Ambrose and Gerald. In due course, he established his own West Indian Dance Orchestra, which broadcast and recorded.

Carl Aldric Stanley Barribeau had spent part of his childhood in Venezuela, but his musical training began when he learnt to play the tenor horn as a teenager in the Bel-

mont Orphanage Band in his native Trinidad. Later he became a clarinetist in the Trinidad Constabulary Band, and his well-schooled classical approach to the instrument remained with him, so that in later life such virtuoso pieces as Artie Shaw's *Concerto for Clarinet* held no terrors for him.

In due course he added also

saxophone to the instruments he played regularly, and he acquired a good working knowledge of the piano, which he used for his writing and arranging.

Before leaving Trinidad he appeared with various local jazz groups including those led by Bert McClean and the Williams Brothers, but his talents as a jazz player developed rapidly once he arrived in England and joined Johnson.

From 1937 onwards, for seven consecutive years, *Melody Maker* voted him Britain's best clarinetist, and in November 1941 he fronted one of the bands at an extraordinary event at HMV's Abbey Road studios, "The First English Public Jam Session". Members of the public were invited into the large No. 1 Studio to hear leading jazz musicians battling against one another in a competitive jam session similar to those organised by Eddie Condon at New York's Town Hall, the results being recorded for posterity.

These discs show Barribeau jousting with the trumpeter Kenny Baker (who had frequently sat in with Ken Johnson at the Cafe de Paris, one of only two white musicians in the group, along with bassist Tommy Brumley), Baker recalled: "Carl was a lovely player, and as well as a fluent clarinetist, he was lead alto in Johnson's band."

In the jam session setting, Barribeau's fluent, elegant clarinet displayed a swing style very much in keeping with that of Artie Shaw, and in his own recordings he played very much in the Shaw manner — not least because he had a similar fascination with semi-classical settings and unusual timbres — in arrangements such as his famous 1949 piece *A Skatun Goes to Harlem*.

In the 1950s, Barribeau worked as a soloist, continued to lead his own band from time to time, and worked with the singer Mae Cooper. He often worked to entertain US servicemen posted to Europe and Asia, and toured widely, both before and after his move to Australia in 1970, finally retiring a decade or so ago.

JILL STURDY

Jill Sturdy, founder and Headmistress of Sancton Wood School, Cambridge, died of cancer on August 10 aged 63. She was born on May 30, 1935.



Sturdy: children and the development of her preoccupations were at the very centre of her preoccupations

BEING usually surrounded by cats, dogs, children, books and newspapers, Jill Sturdy seemed too modest a figure to be the driving force behind a remarkable family and educational enterprise. The mother of 12 children, nine of whom were adopted, she was also the headmistress of a small independent school in Cambridge, which she founded as a result of her dissatisfaction with the general educational provision for her children.

A respected headmistress with an enormous capacity for love, she took particular pleasure in encouraging the development of the most withdrawn children. Jill Evans was born in Aylesbury, the daughter of a Welsh sales manager. Educated at Hitchin Grammar School, she won a place at London University but was persuaded to turn it down in favour of a series of short-term jobs, including copywriting and nursing mentally ill patients. Disillusioned, she joined a Carmelite nunnery and converted to Roman Catholicism. She stayed as a novice for two years and found great happiness and joy, until the debilitating effects of bad migraines persuaded her to return to the outside world. While in hospital she met a newly ordained Anglican priest, John Sturdy. They married in 1961.

Following the birth of two sons, the Sturdy family moved to Cambridge in 1965, where her husband took up the post of Dean of Gornville and Caius College. That same year they made a decision that was to change the rest of their lives when they adopted a young girl from British Guiana (now Guyana). Over the next two years the family began to grow, with the birth of a daughter and the adoption of a Pakistani boy. With five children under the age of five, Sturdy decided to further her education, and began to study for a degree in English at New Hall, Cambridge. During her de-

gree course, she adopted two more children, of West African parentage.

The bullying of her oldest daughter at school led to considerable anxiety about the suitability of the state school system for her multiracial family. With her husband's support, she decided to open her own school: moral, tolerant, with very high standards of education and behaviour, it was to be open to as wide a range of families as possible.

Sancton Wood School was founded in 1976 as a primary school in a Victorian house in Cambridge. It opened its doors to 11 pupils in two classrooms, taught by Jill Sturdy and a friend. Within a term another class was opened. The school has continued to grow since then, to just under 200 pupils, but its philosophy has remained the same: small classes with excellent teaching in a homely atmosphere. The senior school was opened in 1979, in response to the demands of parents who wished their children to continue with the same high standard of caring education to 10.

Two years after the school opened, a young West Indian boy was welcomed into the family. He was followed by another four children, two of

Chinese origin, and two half-African. On several occasions John and Jill Sturdy were approached by social workers who believed they could provide a loving home for children from disturbed backgrounds. Nine children in all were adopted, who, with the three children of their own made up a colourful family. Both parents were scornful of policies preventing white families from adopting coloured children.

The last two years of Sturdy's life were tainted with tragedy. Her husband died from heart failure in 1996, and her youngest daughter lost a courageous battle against bone cancer almost exactly a year later. Despite great sadness and her own ill-health, she remained a vibrant figure, organising the school play, remonstrating fondly with her more challenging pupils, and presenting a 3-of-4-term prize. She encouraged children to appreciate the value of reading, maintaining that a natural reader could never feel truly isolated. She closed her last speech to the school by saying: "Children, never let your parents walk past Heffers Children's Bookshop. You must always go in." She is survived by 11 of her 12 children.

PERSONAL COLUMN

FLATSHARE
BARNING COURT, 3 flats
flat for rent in Queen's...

FLATSHARE
SHARPE-PLAY Ltd. For a flat...

PUBLIC NOTICES
NOTICE OF MEETING
of the Annual General Meeting...

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES
Please send Court page announcements by post...

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE MATTER OF
MARRIAGE (PROHIBITION) ACT 1948

LEGAL NOTICES
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Churchill's
With a Churchill's
Scooter I don't have to
lose my independence.

ANNOUNCE IT THROUGH
THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
CLASSIFIED
0171 481 4000

'KEEP BRITAIN WHITE' CALL
IN NOTTING HILL AREA
ON THIS DAY
September 10, 1958

'KEEP BRITAIN WHITE' CALL
IN NOTTING HILL AREA
ON THIS DAY
September 10, 1958
Two other organizations besides Sir Oswald Mosley's Union Movement are watering the ground in Notting Hill that has lately looked fruitful for their purposes.

NEWS

Labour MP to fight expulsion

Tommy Graham became the first MP in seven years to be expelled from the party as Labour acted to remove the taint of sleaze that has dogged it in Scotland.

Mr Graham, who has faced a series of misconduct allegations since the suicide of his colleague Gordon McMaster, was expelled after a bitter 14-month inquiry that gave the Scottish National Party the opportunity to catch Labour in the polls.

Blair rescues welfare reform

The Government is to include substantial measures on welfare reform in the next session of Parliament as Tony Blair tries to counter claims that he has retreated from one of his central general election pledges.

Royal Opera silenced

The Royal Opera House stunned the arts world by announcing that there would be no opera performances next year and that ballet and opera performances would be cut by a third in the first season at its redeveloped home.

Fashanu's lies

Justin Fashanu lied repeatedly about an alleged sexual assault on a boy in the United States, American police said after a coroner recorded a suicide verdict on the footballer.

War loot ruling

A Dutch Old Master looted from a German gallery in the Second World War by the Red Army must be returned to Germany, the High Court ruled.

Battle of the sexes

Women intelligence officers who tracked Hitler's U-boats faced their own battles at the Admiralty.

Outposts out of limbo

The Government is to restore full British citizenship to all the remaining colonies, ending a 17-year limbo status that caused hardship and anger in the last outposts of the Empire.

Iraq 'hiding A-bombs'

Iraq is hiding three nuclear bombs, which lack only fissionable materials to make them operational, according to the United Nations arms inspector who resigned last month.

UN protest to China

Mary Robinson, the UN Commissioner for Human Rights, is to protest to China after a dissident's wife who tried to meet her in Beijing was reportedly beaten by police.

Clinton contrition

President Clinton was told by fellow Democrats that he must apologise over and over again for the Lewinsky affair.

Union warning on pay

The leader of one of the biggest unions has warned Tony Blair that public sector workers are likely to strike if their pay is squeezed this year.

Love cheat claim

A businessman who claims that his former lover stole £1.6 million from him told the High Court that she had beguiled him into trusting her.

High cost of stress

More than 400 legal actions are being brought against employers as a result of stress suffered by workers, according to figures from the TUC.

Moist eyes as rain stops Bird's play

Dickie Bird's dislike of rain is legendary among cricket followers. The umpire became notorious for halting play at the slightest sign of dampness on a bowler's brow. So it was appropriate that his last first-class match was delayed by a downpour.



George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, at the controls of a Eurofighter at the Farnborough Air Show yesterday. He said that contracts for the first tranche of 148 aircraft, officially named the Typhoon, would be signed "in the very near future".

BUSINESS

LucasVarity: The Anglo-American engineering company is moving its main market listing from London to New York out of frustration with the City.

In the red: Two banks, Credit Suisse First Boston and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, disclosed losses on Russian lending.

Costs Vvella: The textiles group postponed its demerger until the second half of 1999 because of volatile stock markets and weakness among textiles shares.

Markets: The FTSE 100 fell 32.9 to close at 5311.3. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 102.9 to 103.3 after a rise from \$1.6570 to \$1.6632 and from DM2.8640 to DM2.8674.

SPORT

Football: Ron Atkinson, who was released by Sheffield Wednesday in the summer, will travel to South Africa to discuss becoming head coach of the national side.

Crickets: Leicestershire, the British Assurance Championship leaders, sustained their challenge by scoring 301 for six on the opening day of their contest against Essex.

Tennis: After defeat in the US Open Tim Henman must set aside his disappointment and finish the year with a flourish, cementing the gains of the past ten weeks.

Rugby union: Doug Ash, chief executive of the English Rugby Partnership and English First Division Rugby, resigned after little more than seven months.

ENTERTAINMENT

Action man: Mel Gibson couldn't resist a part in Lethal Weapon 4 - the film out next week is not just another tired Hollywood sequel, the actor says.

New movies: After all the hype, Steven Spielberg's Saving Private Ryan proves to be a powerful and brilliant film about the Second World War. Cousin Bette marks the return of chocolate-box cinema.

3D art: Figurative sculpture in Britain today is the subject of this year's survey exhibition by the Flowers East gallery.

Young thespians: Thanks to a £1.75 million lottery grant the National Youth Theatre has a newly refurbished, state-of-the-art home in North London.

FEATURES

Outer limits: Richard Branson recalls how he escaped death in the biggest sports balloon ever built and the telephone call that began a record-breaking business partnership in the fourth extract from his autobiography.

Carry on managing: "I shan't retire; I have plenty of damage to do." Alex Ferguson explains why, despite the uproar over the sale of Manchester United, he is happy to carry on managing it to the best of his ability.

Reviews: Peter Stothard looks at a life of Virgil; Roy Porter hails John Nash; a biography of Hitler impresses Gitta Sereny; Christine Loh wishes that Chris Patten had more to say.

Best buys: Cultured comparisons in Paris; a three-night break in subtropical South Coast landscapes; autumn holidays in the Languedoc; cheap flights to New Zealand.

If the Duma does dare Mr Yeltsin to disband it, it would only add to the uncertainties bedeviling a nation which has not yet shrugged off the hangover of a communist experiment that lasted almost three quarters of a century.

Conservatives' ballot on EMU: future of the monarchy; News at Ten; directors' benefits; stress at work; millennium bug; Prozac for students.

Conservative 'ballot' on EMU: future of the monarchy; News at Ten; directors' benefits; stress at work; millennium bug; Prozac for students.

Conservative 'ballot' on EMU: future of the monarchy; News at Ten; directors' benefits; stress at work; millennium bug; Prozac for students.

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Tasty meals, no gimmicks, in Nigel Slater's Real Food Show (Channel 4, 8pm). Review: Joe Joseph on sex, lies and Dennis Potter.

OPINION

Change at Chequers

The language of priorities, Aneurin Bevan memorably said, is the religion of socialism. This apparently post-socialist Government must shortly decide what legislation it intends to bring to the altar. The Cabinet meets today to determine a programme for the next parliamentary session.

Knifed at the opera

Sir Colin Southgate's kill-or-cure plan for the Royal Opera House has all the dramatic desperation of Donna Elvira's final act pleading with Don Giovanni to repent. The Don turned a deaf ear, and the flames consumed him.

COLUMNS

ANATOLE KALETSKY

So capitalism is not finished after all. It only took a word from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, and Wall Street immediately recovered almost all the losses from last week's vertiginous fall.

MARY ANN SIEGHART

If William Hague could be granted a wish, it would be to heal the Tory party's divisions over Europe. But if he thinks that balloting his members on the single currency will do the trick, he is sadly deluded. For the only man who can now unite the Conservative Party on Europe is Tony Blair.

MAGNUS LINKLATER

Alastair Dunn remained convinced that nothing could be achieved unless Scotland retained the closest ties with England - on its own terms rather than those dictated by London.

OBITUARIES

Colonel Patrick Stevens, Royal Marines D-Day veteran; Carl Barribeau, jazz clarinetist and bandleader; Jill Sturdy, headmistress.

REVIEWS

Conservative 'ballot' on EMU: future of the monarchy; News at Ten; directors' benefits; stress at work; millennium bug; Prozac for students.



George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, at the controls of a Eurofighter at the Farnborough Air Show yesterday. He said that contracts for the first tranche of 148 aircraft, officially named the Typhoon, would be signed "in the very near future".

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

Media: Buying football clubs: how the big broadcasters ran with the ball.

Education: Why Surrey should let a private company run schools, if only to dispel the myths.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,893

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating the starting positions for the clues. The grid is 15x15.

- ACROSS
1 How extra-mural activities are heard about, it's said (5,4,4).
9 Confronted with hunger, looking sad (4-5).
10 Fabulous giant fish (5).
11 A second-class benefit (5).
12 Start to short circuit, and blow (4).
13 Spot in the middle of the ear (4).
15 Person honoured in upper chamber is academic (7).
17 Selfish attitude - even if disheartened (7).
18 One topping word game (7).
20 Mostly merry monarch, a tiny individual (7).
21 One part of hospital (4).
22 Facial expression showing mortification, having missed tea at first (4).
23 Run into front of car from another country (5).
26 Marriage using ring like the Piggy-Wig's (5).
27 Standard for e-mail messages originally different (9).
28 Guarding the joint, does it help to pack a powerful punch? (13).
DOWN
1 Eunuch wants gas? Strange conception of how things are (14).
2 Joins course (5).
3 Light relief from underground meadow? (6,4).
4 Zola, for one, presenting a volume to employer (7).
5 Final part of board meeting staged by Beckett (7).
6 Leader of faction dismissed as culturally pretentious (4).
7 A travesty of justice in two sporting events (4,5).
8 Be short of currency in speculation - always the shady businessman (5,9).
14 Like the best French courses (6,4).
16 How a drink transforms what one makes (9).
19 County man brought up family (7).
20 Such strength in steel, especially (7).
24 Raise Watch Committee's scope of authority (5).
25 In this country, two-thirds read (4).

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0330 444 010
UK Roads - All regions 0330 401 410

Weather by Fax

0330 411 210
0330 410 333
0330 401 882
0330 401 883
0330 401 402
0330 401 892

World City Weather

153 destinations world wide
0 day forecast
0330 411 210
0330 410 333

Car reports by fax

0330 410 333
0330 410 333
0330 410 333
0330 410 333

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6:27 am
Sun sets: 7:27 pm
Moon sets: 11:24 am
Moon rises: 9:48 pm

Forecast

General: windy with showers or rain. Fleeting sunny spells. Threat of thunder or hail.
London, SE England, E Angles: sunny spells, heavy showers, possibly thunder. Wind moderate, SW. Max 21C (70F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, etc.

FORECAST

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: bright at first, heavy showers developing. Wind moderate, W to SW. Max 19C (66F).

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Table showing weather conditions around Britain yesterday. Columns include location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, etc.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions abroad. Columns include location, sun, rain, cloud, drizzle, etc.

NOON TODAY



CHANGES TO THE CHART BELOW FROM NOON

Low D will be slow moving with little change in central pressure. Low S will lose its identity. High I will move S with little change in central pressure.

HIGH TIDES

Table showing high tide times for various locations. Columns include location, AM, HT, PM, TT.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Harrogate, Norfolk, 22C (72F); lowest day max: Far Isle 13C (55F); Highest rainfall: Lough Corry, North Wales, 1.7mm; highest sunshine: Perthshire 9.2hrs.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING. Recycled paper made up of 41% of the raw material. For UK newspapers at the first mill of 1987.

GORE-TEX fabric is extremely durable, waterproof, windproof and breathable. Rain and snow can't get in but perspiration can get out.

Advertisement for Manchester United featuring a large image of a player's face and text about the team's performance and upcoming matches.

Large vertical advertisement for LucasVarity, featuring the text 'THE BOX', 'shareholders', 'LucasVarity', and 'Manchester U'.

سكزا من الأهل

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
Software that keeps cool in any crisis  
PAGE 32



**ARTS**  
D-Day in Normandy gives Spielberg his finest hour  
PAGES 36, 39



**SPORT**  
Henman shrugs off disappointment of US Open defeat  
PAGES 45-52

**TELEVISION AND RADIO**  
Pages 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1998

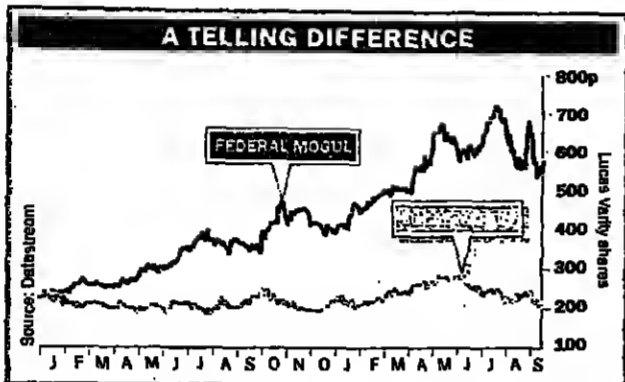
## Shareholders sceptical as unions voice protest LucasVarity seeks US home

BY PAUL DURMAN

LUCASVARITY, the braking-systems business formed from an Anglo-American merger two years ago, is to become a US company, claiming it will have greater freedom to borrow money for acquisitions.

The company, which has clashed with UK investors over dividend policy, will fall from the FTSE 100 list of leading companies although it will retain a secondary listing in London.

LucasVarity still has 25,000 UK employees, many in the West Midlands, and the US move brought an immediate protest from the Transport and General Workers' Union. Bill Morris, T&G's general secretary, said the union's 10,000 members at LucasVarity "will see it as a vote of no confidence in this country".



Some British shareholders — the largest of which were briefed ahead of yesterday's announcement — were also sceptical of the merits of the move. Some funds are unable to hold US stocks, which are also unpopular with many private investors.

Victor Rice, the British chief executive who formerly headed Varsity, said LucasVarity was concerned that "we are drifting slowly backwards because a lot of deals are being done in the US". The group was the world's second-largest auto-components supplier at its formation but a wave of consolidation, led by heavily borrowed groups such as Federal Mogul, has already pushed it back to eighth place.

the US. Mr Rice said the consequence is that LucasVarity's cost of capital, at about 12 per cent, is about 30 per cent higher than that of its US rivals.

This was dismissed as rubbish by one leading institution. He said the calculation was distorted by the higher prices enjoyed by US stocks, and does not take account of the risks that accompany heavy borrowing.

Another issue for LucasVarity is its disappointing share price, which has failed to give the group credit for its improving profits. Yesterday's half-year operating profits of £81 million from continuing operations represented a 20 per cent improvement, or 24 per cent if currency fluctuations were excluded. This was despite the loss of £1 million of profits because of the General Motors strike.

Mr Rice said the move of the group's head office to New York was the natural next step that would allow LucasVarity

to compete with its peers for acquisition opportunities. He said it was "partly true" that UK investors did not understand the dynamics of the motor industry.

LucasVarity has no immediate plans for acquisitions but it intends to buy in up to 20 per cent of its shares. Dividend policy will also be reviewed.

UK ownership of the group has declined from 67 per cent to only 47 per cent, while US investors have raised their holding from 33 to 47 per cent.

One leading institution said yesterday: "The problem with Rice is his approach to investor relations is not a millions miles away from Genghis Khan." The conversion into a US corporation will require backing from the High Court and shareholders. LucasVarity has shared the payment of its 2.5p interim dividend to November 30.



Rice: Genghis Khan approach

Commentary, page 29

## Volatile markets delay Viyella demerger

BY MATTHEW BARBOUR

THE demerger of the Viyella clothing business from Coats has been delayed. The hold-up, along with a sharp fall in profits, sent the struggling textiles-to-engineering group's shares down 16 per cent to 40p.

The company, which has seen its share price fall by almost 70 per cent over the last 12 months, said volatile market conditions and weaknesses in the textile and retail industries had forced it to put any re-organisation plans on ice. Michael Ost, chief executive, said: "We're still completely committed to the demerger, but at present it would be irresponsible to put Viyella out as a separately listed company."

He said there had been a number of approaches for Viyella, though at far less than what the group thought was a reasonable value for the business.

The separation of the precision engineering business remains on course for the first quarter of 1999, although the Viyella demerger is not now likely to get the go-ahead until the second half of 1999.

Results for the six months to June 30 did little to bolster spirits, as the group reported pre-tax profits of £1.6 million down from £41.5 million. The fall was largely due to re-organisation costs of £16.6 million and losses of £29.4 million on the sale or closure of businesses. The abolition of advance corporation tax meant Coats Viyella had to write off £20.5 million of tax. Mr Ost said the strength of sterling also cost the company £5 million directly.

Sales for the half year were down 8 per cent at £1.08 billion, while operating profit tumbled a quarter to £49.1 million. The dividend has been reduced to 1.5p (3.7p).

## Selfridges heads for Trafford

SELFRIDGES opens its first store outside London today, along with 239 retailers at the launch of the £600 million Trafford Centre near Manchester (Fraser Nelson writes).

The 15 million sq ft retail park, owned by Peel Holdings, will also be home to Boots, HMV, Debenhams and WH Smith. It has a catchment area of 5.5 million shoppers living within a 45 minute drive of the retail park. The development has a dome larger than that of St Paul's Cathedral and offers a 20-screen multiplex cinema and an indoor sports complex and an hotel.

Trafford result, page 33

Tempus, page 30

## BUSINESS TODAY

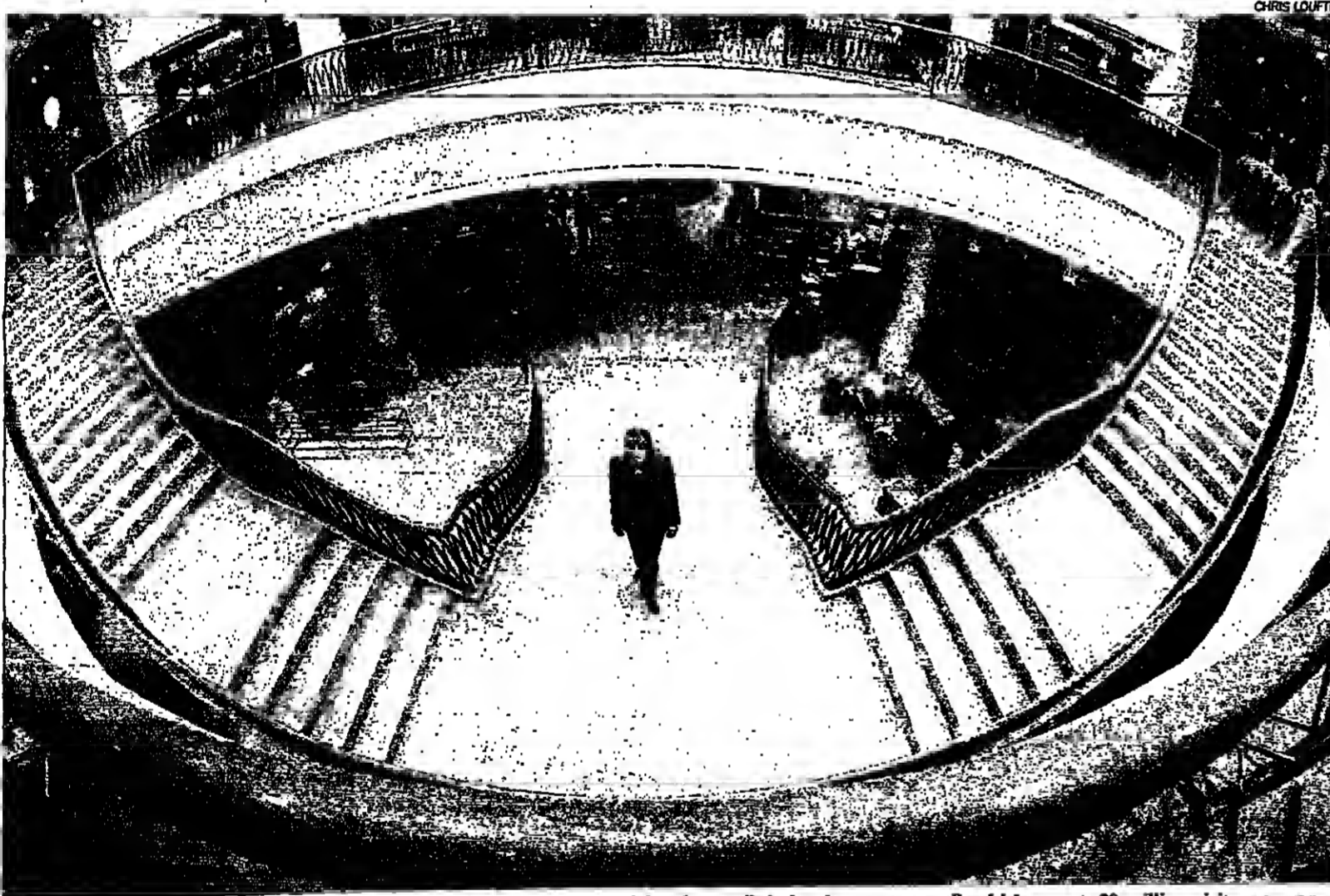
STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5311.3 (-32.9)
Yield	3.12%
FTSE All Share	2464.6 (-10.61)
Nikkei	14755.54 (-157.65)
New York:	
Dow Jones	7947.15 (-73.63)
S&P Composite	1015.18 (-8.30)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	5.75% (5.75%)
Long bond	103.78 (102.4)
Yield	5.30% (5.36%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-mth interbank	7.7% (7.7%)
Life long gilt	112.79 (112.28)
Future (Dec)	
STERLING	
New York:	
£	1.8625* (1.8566)
London:	
DM	1.6834 (1.6574)
DM	2.2680 (2.2656)
FF	8.6286 (8.6101)
SFR	2.3541 (2.3472)
Yen	228.03 (218.23)
£ index	103.3 (102.5)
DOLLAR	
London:	
DM	1.7250* (1.7310)
FF	5.7873* (5.8010)
SFR	1.4155* (1.4170)
Yen	135.38* (132.30)
\$ index	111.2 (110.3)
Tokyo close Yen 133.45	
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent(15-day)(Nov)	\$13.26 (\$13.20)
GOLD	
London close	\$284.75 (\$285.75)

## Ruled out

New rules by the Accounting Standards Board will make it harder for the Treasury to use the Private Finance Initiative to remove the cost of building schools and hospitals from government accounts. Page 28. Commentary 29

## Return

Thistle Hotels, the hotels operator, has promised to return £185 million to shareholders. The move follows the breakdown of talks about a takeover by Norura. Page 29



Going up: Cathy McGowan of Selfridges in the Trafford Centre, near Manchester, Britain's latest megamall, which expects 30 million visitors a year.

## Russian exposure for CSFB reaches \$2.16bn

BY RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT SUISSE First Boston (CSFB), the Swiss-owned investment bank, yesterday stunned the markets by unveiling a net exposure of \$2.16 billion (£1.34 billion) to Russia after a \$1 billion provision.

More than half of the provision relates to CSFB's attempts to hedge its commitments against the rouble's devaluation, but Stephen Hester, chief financial officer, said much of the provision would not feed through to the profit and loss account.

CSFB has already announced that trading losses stemming from the Russian crisis — the bank is believed to have taken a hit of \$350 million in August — would cut its

first-half profits by about \$250 million. The investment bank also disclosed a \$1.75 billion exposure to Brazil.

CSFB's Russian exposure overshadowed the first-half results of its parent, Credit Suisse, which reported a 36 per

cent rise in net profit to SF2.4 billion (£1 billion).

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said yesterday that it expected to report a loss of 150 million euros (£100 million) for the first nine months.

The bank said it is also likely to show a loss for the year.

The EBRD has made an extra provision of 180 million euros to cover its loans risk in Russia, on the assumption that the Government continues to service its debt normally.

The bank is exempt from the 90-day moratorium on debt imposed by Boris Yeltsin last month and is due 140 million euros in payments from Russia by the end of this year.

Daiva Securities, the Japanese investment firm, emerged as the third casualty of the day, reporting a 14 billion yen loss on emerging market bonds in August. Its UK operation has a \$40 million exposure in loans to Russian companies.

## Bank of Japan cuts key rate

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of Japan yesterday cut its key overnight bank lending rate, a surprise move that markets interpreted as a sign of increasing concern about the deteriorating Japanese economy and frustration with the lack of concrete policies from politicians.

The overnight rate was lowered to 0.25 per cent from 0.45 per cent, the first cut in any Japanese interest rate for almost exactly three years. The official discount rate was left unchanged at the record low of 0.5 per cent that has been in place since 1995.

The bank said in a statement that it would also seek to expand Japan's money supply by providing ample liquidity

to the banking system. It told the markets: "It was appropriate to take this measure to ensure monetary policy to ensure the economy does not worsen further and to prevent the economy from falling into a deflationary spiral."

"For the Japanese economy at present, recovery and rebuilding of the financial system are issues that do not allow a moment's respite," the bank said.

The bank said that the decision had been taken without discussions with overseas governments, so pouring cold water on speculation about a co-ordinated interest rate cut across the Group of Seven nations.

## Manchester United 1, other clubs 7

BY JASON NISSE

FOR THE £623.4 million BSKyB is paying for Manchester United, it could have bought most of the Premier League.

If the rules allowed, it could have bought Arsenal, Liverpool, Aston Villa, Newcastle United, Tottenham Hotspur and Leeds United, and had change left

for United's opponents last night. Chariton Athletic.

The second most highly valued club is the Olex-traded Arsenal, whose share price has risen this week by £200 to £2,800, giving it a capitalisation of £156 million. Three shareholders own 70 per cent of Arsenal's shares — David Dein, the deputy chairman, his friend Danny Fiszman, and the Carr family.

Liverpool shares, traded on a matched bargain basis, rose £500 to £4,500 this week, giving it a valuation of £144 million. Newcastle United is valued at £104 million. Aston Villa, where the 74-year-old chairman, Doug Ellis, has a 34 per cent stake, is valued at £73 million. Tottenham Hotspur, whose chairman, Alan Sugar, has offered to sell his 40 per cent holding, is

valued at £64 million. Leeds Sporting, owner of Leeds United, is considered by many to be the bargain of the sector, priced last night at £50.6 million. Chariton, capitalised at £17.4 million, could be bought 25 times over for less than the price of Manchester United.

Away fans, page 5  
Shares rise, page 29

## James Capel welcomes Private Clients

We are one of the leading investment managers for private clients.

Our investment strategy is formulated at the highest level but your portfolio is personalised to your own unique needs, not pooled with others.

We care about our clients. As well as tailor-made portfolios we offer something more - access to your own portfolio manager.

You also have the assurance of the professionalism you would expect from a member of the HSBC Group, one of the leading banking and financial services organisations in the world.

The Private Client Specialist.



## James Capel Investment Management

Member HSBC Group

For more information on how we manage portfolios of £200,000 or more, please call Simon Corbett or Nandita Khanna on 0171 336 9195, fax them on 0171 283 3187 or write to them at the address below.

6 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7JQ  
email: nandita.khanna@jamescapelhsbc.com

James Capel Investment Management is a trading name of HSBC Investment Bank plc

Registered office: 10 Queen Street Place, London EC4R 1BL  
Regulated by SFA and a member of the London Stock Exchange

# PFI rules changed to clarify ownership

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

NEW rules laid down by the Accounting Standards Board will make it harder for the Treasury to use the private finance initiative (PFI) to sweep the cost of building infrastructure projects, schools and hospitals, out of government accounts.

The Government has accepted the rules, even though it is not legally obliged to do so. Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, said he wanted the treatment of PFI clarified and welcomed the final version of the board's proposals.

They will not, however, be applied to schemes already agreed, such as the Channel Tunnel rail link. Nor will the new rules apply to schemes where a best and final offer is being negotiated and a deal will be agreed by the end of this calendar year.

The board insisted that if payments made by the public sector customer to the PFI contractor do not vary with how much a road, prison or hospital is used, or if transfer values do not vary with market values, the state cannot pretend that a property asset is owned by the private supplier.

The change is likely to slow any indiscriminate switch to PFI contracts and could curb increases in public-sector investment. The board has resisted earlier attempts by the Treasury to water down its draft proposals but has also responded to Treasury concerns. The final rules focus more narrowly on the property element in contracts and insist that the tests applied to the issue of who bears the risk must be commercially realistic.

Many leading accountants argued that if the board compromised on its proposals, it would open a loophole for off-balance-sheet financing within the private sector and undermine its efforts to stop abuses. An amendment to accounting rules made to stop abuses of off-balance-sheet finance is

being issued today with immediate effect. It says that the risks of owning property involved in a PFI supply contract must be assessed, even if they are mixed up in payments for a full service. The rules will apply to contracting-out deals between private sector firms.

Regardless of the form of a contract, the property must be counted as an asset of whichever party bears the main risks. So is any matching liability to pay for it, even if that is in regular future contract charges.

Sir David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said: "What has worried many observers is the risk that the assets and liabilities under PFI contracts end up on nobody's balance sheet."

Property risks to be judged include who is affected by higher or lower than expected use of a building and how its residual value is fixed at the end of the contract. If minimum tolls on a motorway built by the private sector are guaranteed and if it is handed over free to the Government at the end of the contract, the road is now likely to be counted a public-sector asset from the start.

State guarantees on the Channel Tunnel rail link, the biggest PFI project, would have the same effect. Sir David admitted that judgment will not always be easy and that different tests could point in different directions. But he argued that, if all the tests in the new rule are applied, it should be clear if the economic risks of an asset are borne by the public or private sector firm operating the contract.

State guarantees on the Channel Tunnel rail link, the biggest PFI project, would have the same effect. Sir David admitted that judgment will not always be easy and that different tests could point in different directions. But he argued that, if all the tests in the new rule are applied, it should be clear if the economic risks of an asset are borne by the public or private sector firm operating the contract.

The public sector borrowing requirement, which reflects cash income and spending, will not be affected directly by the change. But it will eventually add to measures of public spending and debt used under the Maastricht treaty.

Commentary, page 29



Martin Read: 'Logica could still grow at a good rate even if there was a recession'

## Logica aims to prolong its rise

By CHRIS AVRES

LOGICA, the information technology group whose shares have risen more than sevenfold since 1994, yesterday said it could continue its rapid expansion even during a recession.

The company reported a 49 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year ending June 30 from £28 million to £42 million. Logica also said that it would seek approval for a 4-for-1 bonus share issue.

Shares in the company rose nearly 9 per cent yesterday from £16.75 to £18.22 — they traded at just 243p four years ago.

Martin Read, Logica's chairman, said: "I'm so glad we're in IT and not the widgets business. We could still grow at a good rate even if there was a recession. I think we have an exceptionally well positioned business which has given us a broad base."

"The IT industry is becoming more and more important in the world economy. At Logica we continue to concentrate on value-added, repeatable IT solutions in global markets with significant growth potential... we are well placed to deliver superior growth."

Dr Read said the company would continue its acquisition-led overseas expansion plans. Logica said its sales had risen 40 per cent from £338 million to £473 million, while its earnings per share also rose by 40 per cent from 30.3p to 42.3p.

Logica said it would pay a final dividend of 7.25p, with a total dividend of 11.75p, up from 9.4p the previous year.

Tempus, page 30

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Beazer profits fail to lift ailing shares

SHARES in Beazer, the housebuilding group, yesterday failed to recover from their recent decline despite a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits for the year to June 30 from £62.2 million to £79.2 million. Sales at Beazer rose 18 per cent from £536 million to £631 million, while earnings per share rose 28 per cent from 15.62p to 20.06p. A final and interim dividend of 7.3p, up from 6.6p, will be paid on November 16. Shares in Beazer fell 7p to 150p, compared to 231p in May.

Announcing the figures, the company also gave details of the far-reaching management shake-up carried out in July, which involved the departure of two directors, Stewart Baseley and Andrew Calvert. Mr Baseley was chairman of one of Beazer's regional divisions and Mr Calvert was finance director. Beazer's chief executive, Dennis Webb, will retire next year. Mr Webb, who will be 60 next year, said the management shake-up was intended to "flatten out" the company's management structure and end its division into three regional parts. He said David Smith had been appointed finance director and that John Low had been appointed managing director.

### NU in Australian buy

NORWICH UNION is to buy Portfolio Partners, an Australian fund management company, for an estimated \$120 million (£42.7 million). The move will turn NU into Australia's 12th-largest fund manager. Yesterday's announcement comes hard on the heels of the publication of Norwich Union's results when directors made it clear that they wished to pursue a more aggressive acquisition strategy. However, since its demutualisation last year, Norwich Union has been seen more as a possible target for an Antipodean business, such as AMP, than as a predator in the region.

### Devaney for Steel

JOHN DEVANEY, the departing chairman of Eastern Group, yesterday joined British Steel's board as a non-executive. Mr Devaney resigned from Eastern last month amid speculation that he was forming a consortium to pursue his own energy interests. He is thought to have approached PowerGen about power station sales and to have talked to banks and other parties about a takeover bid for National Power. Before joining Eastern, Mr Devaney worked in the US for engineering companies. He is also a non-executive director of Midland Bank.

### PSD sees sales soar

SHARES in PSD, the recruitment services group, rose 25p to 360p after the company revealed a rise in pre-tax profits from £3.9 million to £6.2 million on sales up from £14.2 million to £22.6 million in the six months to June 30. Earnings rose from 11.3p to 17.6p and the half-year dividend rises from 2.4p to 3.8p. PSD said trading since June 30 has continued at record levels and the company remains confident of a positive full-year outcome. Charterhouse Tilney, the company's house broker, raised its full-year forecast from £11.8 million to £12.4 million.

### Hit's US breakthrough

HIT Entertainment, the children's television production and distribution company behind *Kipper*, *Percy the Park Keeper* and *Brambly Hedge*, will today announce it has sold seven series to the US. The deals will make the UK company the largest non-American children's producer in the US. Peter Oriot, managing director of Hit, said the sales marked a breakthrough for the company in the US market. He declined to put a value on the deals but revealed that next year 30 per cent of Hit's revenue will come from the US.

### Oil price hits Premier

PREMIER OIL, the exploration and production company, saw a fall in net income to £9.1 million from £26.1 million in the half year to June 30, adversely affected by a 28 per cent fall in oil prices. Turnover was 30 per cent lower at £61.7 million. The average Brent price was \$13.60 (£8) a barrel, compared with \$19.60 in the first half of 1997. Earnings fell to 0.9p a share from 2.55p. There is again no dividend. The shares fell 2p to 26 1/2p. Premier said it enjoyed exploration success in Pakistan, Burma and Indonesia.

## US banker jailed for fraud

A FORMER vice-president of Bankers Trust, the Wall Street bank, was sentenced to 18 months in prison for insider trading in one of the harshest sentences in recent years (Olivier August writes).

Alan Stricoff, who was responsible for stamping out insider trading in his position as compliance officer, had pleaded guilty to making a

profit of \$325,000 (£200,000) from buying the shares of takeover targets advised by Bankers Trust.

Michael Milken, the legendary junk bond impresario of the 1980s, spent two years in prison on charges relating to much greater profits. Both men were judged by Kimba Woods at the same court in New York.

The case against Stricoff focused on trades involving the shares of Caesars World, a leisure group that was acquired by ITT in 1994. Bankers Trust acted as an adviser to ITT in the takeover.

Mr Stricoff, who was prosecuted together with another compliance officer and his brother, had selected investment choices based on Bank-

ers Trust so-called grey list of companies that were being advised or targeted by the bank's merger team.

As compliance officer, Mr Stricoff was involved in compiling and monitoring the grey list that is circulated to all bank employees. His co-defendants have yet to be sentenced. The bank was not charged.

## Jarvis colleges plan

JARVIS, the construction and property group, has secured financial backing for a new £500 million student accommodation scheme (Joanna Geary writes).

Jarvis plans to buy student halls of residence from university authorities and construct new buildings.

Jarvis already provides facilities management and other services to universities at York, Plymouth and Aberdeen.

The project, called University Partnerships, has received financial backing from Abbey National Treasury Services and Barclays Bank.

## ICS steps into breach for IFAs

THE £15 billion personal pension mis-selling scandal is taking its toll of the independent financial advice sector (Anne Ashworth writes).

The Investors' Compensation Scheme, the official rescue fund for clients of defunct firms, yesterday announced that customers of nine independent financial adviser (IFA) firms that have gone out of business can now make formal claims for restitution.

Since April the ICS has declared 55 firms in default over pension review payouts. A firm in default is unable to meet its liabilities to clients. The ICS takes over these cases.

Earlier this summer a number of IFA firms were rebuked for delays in the payment of compensation to priority pension cases.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.92	2.74
Austria Sch	21.25	19.95
Belgium F	63.40	61.44
Canada \$	2.650	2.462
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8809	0.8194
Denmark Kr	11.54	10.65
Egypt	5.85	5.29
France Fr	9.25	8.54
France Fr	10.10	9.32
Germany Dm	3.035	2.733
Greece Dr	17	17
Hong Kong \$	13.69	12.49
India Ru	129	108
Ireland P	1.1998	1.1108
Israel Sh	6.74	6.08
Italy Lit	3010	2773
Japan Yen	242.72	228.15
Malaysia	0.071	0.612
Netherlands Gld	3.432	3.137
New Zealand \$	3.42	3.18
Norway Kr	33.45	30.51
Portugal Esc	307.04	285.01
S. Africa R	10.93	9.97
Spain Ptas	228.25	228.51
Sweden Kr	14.07	12.97
Switzerland F	2.510	2.292
Turkey Lira	472.08	407.38
USA \$	1.787	1.624

Rates for spot commission banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

# In turbulent times, invest in experience

Through good times and bad, we look to provide our investors with excellent returns. We aim to do this through a disciplined investment approach and by using the resources available to us as one of the UK's leading investment houses. We're also part of the Merrill Lynch group, one of the world's leading financial services companies.

Our fund managers, analysts and economists work together to find the best opportunities for you. So, when the world

loses its head, you can be confident that we will be using ours.

If you're looking for a wealth of investment experience, call us now, or ask your financial adviser about Mercury Asset Management.

CALL NOW 0800 882 884



Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them can fluctuate and are not guaranteed. You may not get back the amount you invest. Issued by Mercury Asset Management Ltd regulated by IMRO, 33 King William Street, London EC4R 9AS <http://www.mam.com> For your protection, telephone calls are usually recorded.

## THE OZONE LAYER RESTS ON YOUR BOARDROOM TABLE.

'The environment' is not some distant concept, miles from your cosy HQ. It needs to be on your agenda, especially as an environmental management system, leading to ISO 14001, can protect another precious resource. Profit.

Call now on + (44) 0845 60 14001

Thistle co return to

Income worri send United News tumblin

صكرا من الاصل

السؤال الثاني

# Wallis goes the American way

COMMENTARY  
by our City Editor

Everyone wants to be loved. Victor Rice and his chairman Ed Wallis insist that their decision to pack their bags and move to a more congenial country has nothing at all to do with feeling unappreciated in the UK. But they would not be human if they were not fed up with being spurned. On the other side of the pond, they might not be guaranteed instant adulation but a more friendly response seems certain.

Yesterday, the pair were at pains not to utter anything that might be deemed a criticism of British investors. Their reasons for turning LucasVarity into an American company were coldly commercial and eminently convincing. But when their newly acquired US share price motors to a substantial premium over the current UK levels, as it surely will, they will be able to relish the triumph of the jilted bride who goes on to land the perfect partner and gets to introduce him to the former suitor, who has, by then, lost his looks and most of his money.

British investors have been jilting LucasVarity ever since the merger that created the business. It would be surprising if the few who remain stand in the way of the company's planned change of citizenship, since they will benefit from the expected uplift in the company's value. But there will be an emotional response from those quarters that so recently were bemoaning the sale

of Rolls-Royce Motors to BMW. What is left of the British automotive industry is no longer British owned, and the Americanisation of LucasVarity is just an extension of that fact.

In many ways, the change for the company is virtual rather than real. The factories and jobs which remain in Britain are not affected by the move. But by simply changing the main market on which its shares are quoted — in fact not a simple job at all, but one that will earn hefty fees for banquets of brokers, bankers and lawyers — LucasVarity should be able to become a more effective player in the world automotive business.

This, like so many other industries, whether telecommunications, pharmaceuticals or financial services, is in a process of consolidation. In order to play with the big shots, LucasVarity needs access to the significantly cheaper capital that the US will offer. In New York, it will benefit from being quoted as part of a sector not banished to obscurity, as it has been in London.

Other company bosses will sympathise with the move being made by Rice and Wallis and some will be tempted to follow.

Disillusion with their share price is driving many directors to despair, particularly in the second line stocks, where ratings seem often to bear little resemblance to corporate performance. If they cannot quit the country, they will look to quit the stock market, as the rash of venture capital funded moves from public to private is demonstrating. If investors will not support the shares, they can hardly complain.

## Counting the cost of blind optimism

The extent of the Russian plague is slowly emerging. Now CSFB has owned up to exposure of \$2 billion. Barclays has already admitted that it has been nastily caught out by Hurricane Boris, and Wall Street's banks have been totting up the damage. But with all the benefits of hindsight it is now possible to

wonder just what scale of miracle British companies thought had been achieved in that country. It took many years for what was once part of our Post Office to be transformed into what was designated British Telecom. Before that company could move from the realms of nationalised industry to become a quoted company there had to be drastic personnel changes, mass redundancies and extensive retraining. It was a question of changing the culture, and the change was nowhere near complete by the time the business came to market.

How much harder to change the culture of a nation. Yet many British businesses chose to believe that the former Communist country was open for business only months after the old regime had moved out. Now they are counting the cost. For some, such as Littlewoods, the experiment has been interesting but hardly ruinous. Opening a trio of stores in Moscow was a pointlessly opti-

mistic move, but withdrawal rapidly became inevitable, some of the banks that plunged in to help the emerging economy were risking far more.

Russia had not become an open capitalist market overnight. George Walker, the controversial former Brent Walker chief, plunged in and prospered, selling cigarettes and satellite racing broadcasts. More conventional businessmen, however, soon found that dealing in Russia was different.

Alan Lewis, for instance, wanted to take Illingworth Morris, the textile company that makes Crombie coats, into the country. He thought he had bought a textile factory but instead found himself embroiled in litigation which has gone on for years. The problem was that while national politicians were on his side — Mr Lewis boasted a hotline to the Kremlin — local politicians were not so supportive. Indeed, some thought that their roles gave

them a stake in the company. The culture change had not yet percolated below the first layer. Russia's turmoil cannot batter the West's economies to the same extent as the problems in the Far East, but they do provide a lesson on the dangers of doing business with emerging economies.

## Tweedie nails the risks in the PFI

Trust Sir David Tweedie to make things awkward for the Treasury over the private finance initiative. The Accounting Standards Board really had no choice. If it allowed the substance of property risks to be fudged in PFI deals, it would open a cavernous loophole through which private sector outsourcing deals could be structured to be no one's liability.

Geoffrey Robinson, the minister in charge of PFI, has wisely accepted the board's ruling in principle, while making sure it does not apply to existing plans. Not to do so would have made nonsense of Andrew Likierman's resource accounting reforms for the public sector.

The price is smaller than had

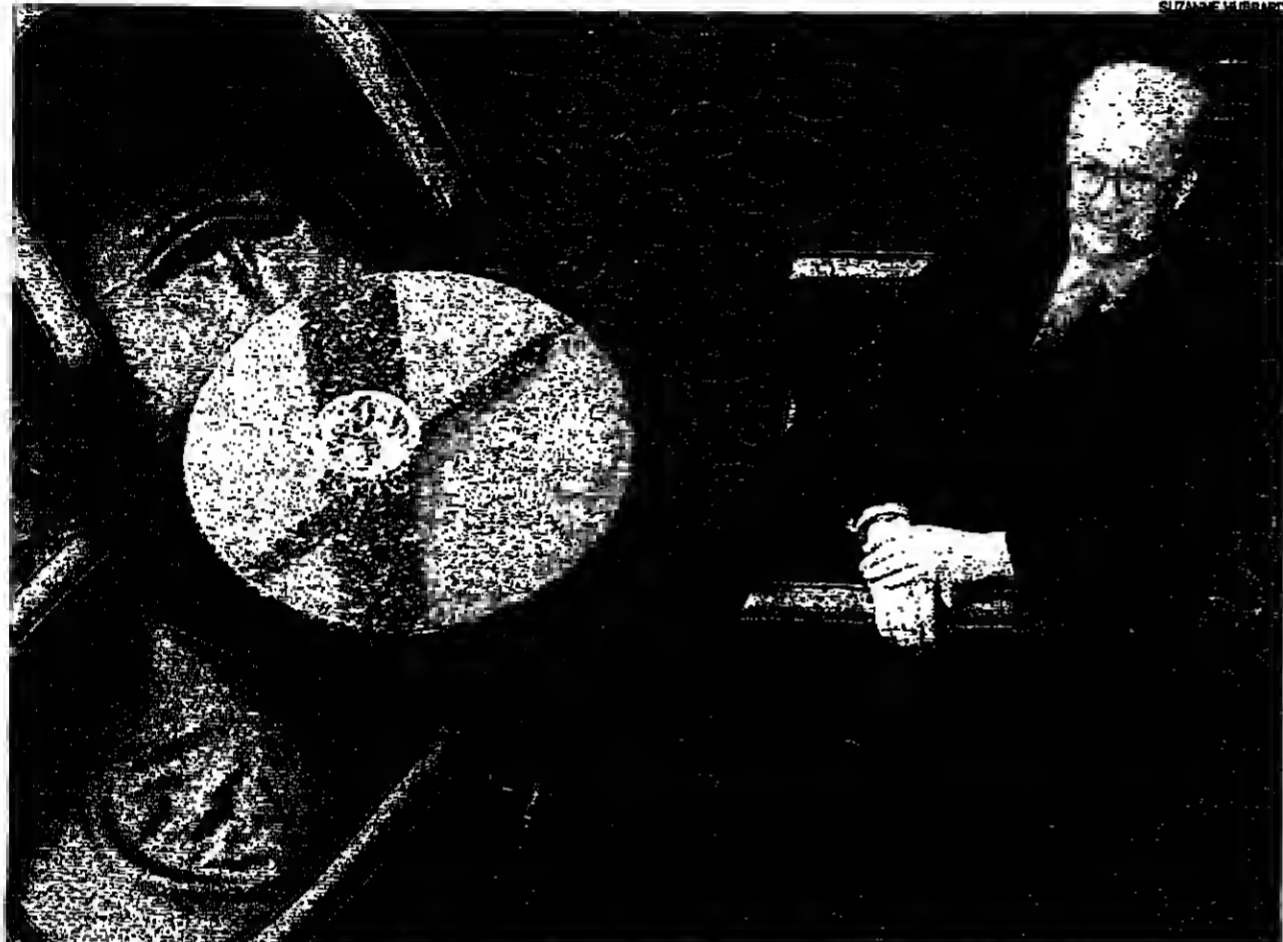
been feared: the board has refined its original draft to make the rules easier to apply and the tests more realistic. The public sector borrowing requirement should escape unscathed.

But the purpose of PFI has evolved beyond being a mere wheeze to disguise extra public sector capital spending and beat cash limits. Now the main drive is to get better value for money, something that some early PFI schemes have even delivered.

By making it clear who bears the risks, honest accounting will help to sort good projects from bad. There should be no repeat of a Channel rail link scheme that puts burdens on future taxpayers. And Labour does not plan to drive ahead with new private roads, potential PFI schemes which looked full of potholes.

## Filling a gap

THE ever-expanding Boots is branching out into dentistry. But should we believe the company's rather downbeat comment that it is not expecting the same scale of growth from this business as it has enjoyed from its chain of opticians, since dentistry lacks the fashion retail element of spectacles? Surely the chemist that turned itself into one of the nation's largest sandwich suppliers has the imagination necessary to turn teeth into a fashion statement. Buy your ring of confidence here.



Ian Burke, chief executive of Thistle Hotels, who announced that the company had embarked on a brand building exercise

## Signet to expand in Britain

SIGNET, the jewellery chain, is pressing ahead with its UK expansion although its underlying sales growth has slowed to 1.1 per cent (Fraser Nelson writes). The company intends to open or refurbish 100 H Samuel shops and open 50 Ernest Jones outlets before Christmas, as part of its £20 million expenditure budget. James McAdam, chairman, blamed the UK economy for the slow growth and said: "We are being very, very careful." Sterling, its US division, which now generates 65 per cent of group sales, delivered a strong performance, with underlying sales up by 10 per cent and profits up to £22 million (£16 million). This helped the company lift overall pre-tax profits to £121 million (£1.93 million) for the half-year.

## Manchester United shares rise on offer

SHARES of Manchester United rose 15½p to 215½p yesterday after confirmation of British Sky Broadcasting's £623.4 million cash and shares offer. The fact that the shares of the football club fell short of the 240p value of the offer price suggests that the City believes there is a risk the deal will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. It also suggests there is unlikely to be a rival offer. BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster in which News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, also rose 6p to 479p. The offer has the unanimous support of United directors. It involves 0.2537 BSkyB shares and 120p in cash for each Manchester United share. There will be a full cash alternative and existing Manchester United shareholders will receive the final dividend for the year to July 31, which is expected to be 1.18p. There will also be a Manchester United loan note alternative for the cash part of the deal with the club logo on the certificate. The loan note will pay interest rather than a dividend. Directors have accepted the offer in respect of 16.5 per cent. The underlings lapse — apart from that of Martin Edwards, the chief executive — if a higher offer is received or if the Department of Trade and Industry accepts an Office of Fair Trading recommendation that the deal should be referred to the MMC. A maximum 66.3 million new BSkyB shares are being issued, which would amount to 3.6 per cent of the enlarged share capital if accepted. Mr Edwards, who will join the board of BSkyB, will continue to be responsible for the day-to-day running of the club along with Peter Kenyon and David Gill. Maurice Walkins will continue on the United board as a non-executive director, but there was no mention of the other non-executive Greg Dyke, the chairman of Pearson Television. Throughout a board meeting at HSBC on Tuesday Mr Dyke refused to accept the original 225p offer, which was later increased to 230p. Mr Dyke, who was in a minority of one, held out successfully for a 240p offer, even though he owned only 75,000 Manchester United shares. The board wanted unanimous director support before putting the deal to fans. BSkyB said that the deal would be modestly earnings dilutive in 1999 and 2000, and earnings neutral after that.

## Thistle confirms £185m return to shareholders


THISTLE HOTELS, the hotels operator, has promised to return £185 million to shareholders. The move, which was widely anticipated, comes in the wake of the breakdown of talks about a full-blown takeover by Nomura and the successful sale, last week, of 31 of its provincial hotels. The capital return will be completed in two stages. The first phase will be funded by the £84 million Thistle raised through the sale of the 31 provincial establishments, and other smaller disposals. The second part of the programme will be funded out of borrowings, although generation of surplus cash from operations will also help both parts. The first phase of capital repayment, totalling £90 million, will be effected through the issue, and redemption of preference shares. The second, worth £95 million, will come in the form of what Ian Burke, chief executive, described as a "super dividend". In total the two payments are equivalent to 30p a share. Mr Burke said that he knew of no discussions that were taking place for the sale of Thistle. However, speculation about Thistle, which is 46 per cent owned by Brierley Investments, the New Zealand group, persists. Thistle also published interim pre-tax profits yesterday that fell from £38.1 million to £17.3 million. However, a large chunk of the decline was accounted for by an exceptional item relating to the write-down in the value of the hotel assets recently sold. Ignoring the exceptional items pre-tax profits rose from £37.2 million to £44.5 million. The company said that the advance was secured by a 10 per cent advance in revenues per available room and a 9 per cent widening of the operating profit margin. Overall revenues per available room rose from £38.64 to £42.63. In London, the increase was from £52.18 to £56.10 and in the provinces it grew from £26.04 to £29.39. Occupancy across the group was static at 65.4 per cent and in London it slipped back from 75.4 per cent to 73.6 per cent. Mr Burke, who has only been in the role of chief executive for five months, admitted that Thistle's key ratios lagged its rivals. He added that the group was embarked on a strategy of brand-building in an attempt to close the gap. He said he wanted to improve and standardise the level of service to encourage customer loyalty among the crucially important business traveller and he revealed that Thistle was embarking on a £50 million annual programme of investment in its hotels. Earnings per share, adjusted for the exceptional items, were 6.1p against 5.7p. The interim dividend is 0.1p higher at 1.5p.

## Income worries send United News tumbling

SHARES in United News & Media tumbled 49p to 623p yesterday amid growing fears of a fall in advertising income, which is the bedrock of half the company's businesses. The fall came despite assurances from Lord Hollick, chief executive, that advertising revenues were holding up and that the company was "in good shape". He was speaking as United announced headline profits up by 2.2 per cent to £178 million for the six months to June 30. This figure excludes the exceptional items such as the sale of regional newspapers, and amortisation of goodwill and the television station, and LineOne, the Internet joint venture with BT and News International, owner of *The Times*.

## Everest to go as Caradon focuses on new strategy

CARADON has put its Everest windows business up for sale as part of an attempt to resource its sales and profits growth. The struggling building materials group will also sell the rest of its doors and windows businesses in the UK and North America, which provided £182 million of its £766 million of first-half turnover. Caradon wants to sell Catnic, a steel linings maker, and the Terrain plastic pipes business. Jurgen Hintz, the new chief executive, hopes to turn Caradon into a European leader in plumbing and in electrical wiring accessories. However, the City focused on the group's warning that it expected trading conditions to become more challenging. Its shares fell 13½p to a new low



Nothing should come between you and your mission-critical information.

From accounts through to stock control and on the road with sales, different users need to access mission-critical data in a way that suits them to maximise productivity. Yet with many legacy systems this can be difficult to provide.

With so many differing user requirements, the challenge today is not just in providing access to the host, but in managing that access to deliver the right information to the right people in the right format. We call this host access management and, fortunately, we have the answer. Whether you require terminal emulation for power users, secure web-based access for customers or, in fact, any point in between, we can deliver. Best of all, your current investment in legacy systems needn't be affected.

For more information on how you can evolve the way you manage access to your legacy systems, visit [www.attachmate.co.uk](http://www.attachmate.co.uk) or call us on 0118 989 0390.

Web-to-host • Desktop management • Terminal emulation

**Attachmate.**  
The Advantage of Information

©1998 Attachmate Corporation

Business Roundup  
er profits fall  
ailing share  
Australian  
Steel  
price hit



PUS hey fall

سبتمبر 10 1998

# Cut back Number 10, not the Palace

Twelve months ago the Royal Family was given a shock, as an institution as well as individually. When so many ordinary people responded to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, it became clear that "The Firm", as court insiders so appropriately call it, had a great many loyal but dissatisfied customers.

Two key problems emerged. The first they could at least do something about. The model of dignified service offered so successfully since the abdication of Edward VIII had finally lost the edge of its appeal. The monarchy was no longer, as it assumed, supplying quite the right focus of national unity or so good a symbol of popular loyalty. People wanted symbols they could identify with better, such as Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother understood during the war that only the bombing of Buckingham Palace allowed her to look the people of the East End in the face.

The family has set up its own board of directors to remodel the service. One sign was when the

public was told that the Queen had joked "one is not amused" when watching England's World Cup mishap on television. But adapting to an age of informality is not something that can be done fast.

As any good manager knows, the faster we need to change, the more we need elements of continuity to be successful. Since the monarchy is a key one, too-rapid change would destroy the service.

The second problem is structural. The Queen, by goodwill, is holding up a ramshackle structure that owes its existence to history rather than to any 1990s reality.

Almost on the anniversary of the first shock, a pamphlet co-written by a colleague but published by a think-tank linked to Tony Blair, has delivered a second. The Demos plan, a compromise between monarchy and republicanism, would make the Royal Family be

more politically correct, lose all the ceremonial powers behind the symbol and make it part of the civil service. Much common sense is offered, but the Demos plan is written from a British political view. The Royal Family is not a business. Just as the need to change its service can be analysed as a trial for a family firm, however, structural reform is better seen as an exercise in corporate finance.

The structure in which the monarchy operates is the shell of a long-lost empire, still masterminded by British prime ministers as if nothing had happened. It is like one of those grand but sad conglomerates, such as Vickers or the old Hawker Siddeley. Its prime assets have all been nationalised and what remains has little in common but the great name.

The anachronism is, however, the role of the Prime Minister as



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Pooh Bah to this nonexistent empire. Through his jealously guarded power over the monarch, Tony Blair is unconsciously pretending that this empire still exists. It is Number 10, not the Court, that is the stultifying dead hand.

The parts of this dead conglomerate, like so many others, can have a much more successful fu-

ture on their own. They include the worldwide Anglican communion, the Commonwealth, all the other independent countries of which the Queen is sovereign and any countries within the United Kingdom that eventually prefer to be independent members of the European Union.

Most of these would need a ceremonial non-executive chairman of the kind urged by the Cadbury Committee for companies. Most would probably choose the Queen and one or other of her heirs because they offer a great service: fame, respect and tradition without any claim to such legitimacy that might tempt them to interfere. Chief executives love that.

The constitutional anomaly of the Church of England is not that it is headed by an hereditary secular figure, the symbolic head of many nations, or that it has a spe-

cial ceremonial place in British life. The problem is that its laws are decided by Parliament and bishops are appointed by the Prime Minister. The Queen, as head of the Church, should be advised by the Archbishop of Canterbury. As head of an independent Scotland, she would be advised by its prime minister, just as in Canadian affairs she is best advised by Canadians.

The chief executives of the Commonwealth, the Anglican church and others need freedom from the dead hand of the centre, which is Whitehall. They should report to and advise their symbolic head independently, and become their own bosses. Our Prime Minister should stick to running England, and whatever else remains of the old UK state.

To operate effectively, a rainbow multifunctional monarchy needs

to operate as a service organisation independent of any one of its "customers", even the original one. Rather than coming under some Whitehall office of the monarchy, it needs an independent service organisation of its own. Many courtiers may not be up to the job and the Queen may be well advised to recruit more systematically. Being absorbed by the British civil service, however efficient, would be fatal.

To operate independently, however, the monarchy must be financially independent of Whitehall. Republicans will always use the Civil List as a stick to beat an irrational form of public spending.

The Royal Family has invaluable "intellectual property" to exploit, from licensing royal warrants to ownership of royal images. It also has huge underused property assets that can be deployed better or sold. Only if the Royal Family is run at a profit can it look the taxpayer in the eye, make those charity donations so many now expect and free itself from the shackles of Number 10.

# US airline strike may prove the undoing of the unions



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX

Don't bother trying to get to North Dakota. You can't, since the Northwest Airlines strike began 12 days ago. After a summer of harvest-wrecking heat, which followed floods of biblical destructiveness, the prairie towns are facing the modern plague of transport strikes.

The northern plains are almost as cut off as when the first wagon trains rolled nervously across Indian grazing lands. To afford the ticket prices charged by the handful of other airlines which serve the region you would have to be engaged on extremely lucrative business.

Car rental companies love it — fly to Canada and drive down, they say. "Airlines today are like the railroads of the last century," Joseph Schwieterman, economics and transportation professor at DePaul University in Chicago, says. "They wield great clout over an entire region's economic well-being."

The spectacle of one company's labour troubles crippling a large chunk of the United States — North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa, and much of the South — has inevitably been read as a sign that union power is on the rise.

The Northwest strike has coincided with another at AirTran Airlines, formerly known as ValuJet, which faces a walkout by flight attendants. Unions at Delta Airlines have also forced it to scrap a key part of its proposed alliance with United Airlines — the pact to share codes, link schedules and sell tickets together.

It may be irresistible to interpret these moves as a sign of rising power, but it would be



Empty cargo bins sit idle outside the Northwest Airlines terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport in Michigan

wrong. The effects on national mobility, particularly on commercial freight, are not anything like as crippling as they would need to be for the unions to be confident of winning its case. The impact is dwarfed by that of the Asian recession, whose effects are increasingly obvious. In fact, the airlines are a microcosm of the US economy: falling commodity prices are buying a temporary reprieve from the slowdown that is about to come. Against that background, the union demands are an extra strain. But, although labour leaders think they are pitching their bid at the height of a boom, they are doing so at the start of a slowdown. Their leverage is weaker than they think.

In getting Washington's attention, they may also provoke the thing they most dread: a re-regulation of the industry, which would weaken the near-monopoly power some airlines have acquired over whole regions and weaken the unions' power at the same time.

The strike by nearly 6,200 Northwest pilots, the longest at an airline since the Eastern Airlines walkout in 1989, is about both wages and job security. The pilots, who say they earn an average of \$120,000 a year (£70,000), want a raise of 15 per cent over three years. The company, which says pilots earn an average of \$133,000, has offered 9 per cent over four years.

The strike has forced Northwest to cancel its 1,700 daily flights carrying 170,000 passengers within the US and internationally. It has laid off more than 27,000 workers since the start, and is said to be losing at least \$27 million each day in revenue. Industry analysts put the impact on profits at more than \$10 million and \$15 million a day.

It is business and holiday travellers who have suffered the greatest immediate disruption, as well as local hotels and restaurants; the strike is expected to cut \$4 million a week from conference spending.

That has led to increasing pressure on Washington: governors of the seven states most affected have called on Bill Clinton to use his executive powers and order the pilots back to work for 60 days while an emergency board tries to mediate.

While the President has held back from formal intervention, on Monday he despatched two aides to the talks in Minneapolis: Bruce Lindsey, the deputy White House counsel who is also one of Mr Clinton's closest confidantes; and Rodney Slater, the Transportation Secretary.

more preoccupied with the Asian crisis. Carriers are reporting much more traffic from West to East than the other way. Westbound cargo flights have been particularly hard hit by the sudden collapse in demand from Asia.

So far, the domestic market for airline travel is still booming, with rates for business customers and freight still at record highs. But airlines are expecting this to soften during 1999 as the US economy slows down.

If Latin American economies suffer as much as the recent turmoil in their stock markets and currencies implies, there will be a further squeeze on airline profits. The only blessing for airlines is that the collapse in the price of oil since the Russian crisis has pushed the cost of jet fuel — the second biggest cost after labour — to just 43 cents a gallon, lower than they have seen throughout the four-year boom. But many financial analysts, who now predict that the

industry are ending, foresee a squeeze on profits for years to come.

So, although unions appear to believe that they are in a strong position, their bargaining power is likely to be weakened almost immediately by the conspicuous financial pressures on their employers. Their manoeuvres could even backfire badly by prompting a Washington-backed restructuring of the whole industry.

The fact that whole regions of the US depend on a single airline is a problem that the federal Government might now tackle. The problem pre-dates the years of prosperity. The deregulation of the airline industry created the hub-and-spoke structure which persists today. But larger airlines have been allowed to win control of a majority of landing slots at the main hubs — and to put prices steeply while letting punctuality, baggage handling and inflight service deteriorate. Bills to loosen up airlines' access to slots have been languishing before Congress for years.

The strike may prove the catalyst to get at least a version of these passed. But any move which weakens the power of the main airlines will also weaken the unions' threat to be able to shut down a region. Whatever the outcome of the Northwest scrap, it is likely that this marks a high point of union power before inevitable decline.

Union leaders also prompt Washington finally to do something about the abusive control of the great hubs of air traffic, passengers will thank them. Their members will not, but they will have only themselves to blame.

# Banks count the cost of Russian loans

AS RUSSIA slips deeper into the mire, Western banks are beginning to count the cost of their trust in Boris Yeltsin and his programme of economic reforms.

With the rouble trading at between 16 and 25 to the dollar against 65 just a few weeks ago, the latest estimate of the private sector's exposure to the Great Bear has climbed to \$125 billion (£75 billion), more than a quarter of the country's gross domestic product in 1996.

Fitch IBCA, the credit-rating agency, reckons that European and US creditors could incur losses of \$100 billion — although in contrast to previous emerging market crises, the fallout is expected to be spread across a range of financial institutions and hedge funds rather than concentrated on a handful of players.

David Riley, an analyst at Fitch IBCA, calculates that foreign institutions hold more than \$14 billion in Russian treasury bills (GKO) and bonds (OFZs), that have been the main cause of trading losses among Western banks. Conservative estimates now put their worth at between 6 and 7 per cent of their face value after Moscow's debt default and the rouble's devaluation.

British banks, excepting Barclays, which last week took a £250 million charge, claim to have only a small exposure to Russia. Certainly, their exposure pales compared with the loans granted by continental European banks and some of the US investment banks with proprietary trading positions in the Moscow markets.

Credit Suisse First Boston, the Swiss investment bank which is one of the biggest

foreign players in Russia, has so far disclosed the greatest exposure, provisions and trading losses. Yesterday, it unveiled provisions of \$1.06 billion against an exposure of \$2.16 billion. Last month, the bank also gave warning that trading losses would cur more than \$250 million from its first-half net profits.

Of the German banks, Deutsche has declared an exposure of DM1.35 billion (£465 million) as well as a \$290 million trading position in short-term government paper, while Commerzbank and Dresdner have announced loans to Russia of about DM1 billion. However, these credit exposures do not include the bulk of their loans that are covered by state guarantees.

Many banks have come unstuck because of their hedging strategies. More than half of CSFB's provisions relate to foreign exchange futures deals to protect itself against the devaluation of the rouble. Unfortunately, most of the counter-parties were Russian banks that cannot now honour their side of the bargain.

There is little foreign banks can do about their Russian problems. Their trading positions are highly illiquid and there are serious doubts about whether Mr Yeltsin's Government can service its debt.

As Martin Taylor, chief executive of Barclays, pointed out, a government default is an extremely unusual event. One clear consequence is that banks are now scaling back their commitment to emerging markets in general.

RICHARD MILES

# Quiet Liffe

I BUMP into Daniel Hodson, former chief executive of Liffe before he quit at the start of August to make way for Brian Williamson as Liffe's chairman. Actually, he was buying farewell drinks for selected journalists, which shows true nobility of spirit given what some of us wrote about him before he left.

He says he has spent the past month or so in his garden at Midhurst, Sussex, reminding himself what his family look like and getting to grips with his home computer. And fielding calls from well-wishers and potential employers, although he seems no closer to deciding what he will eventu-

ally do. Something in the arts would be my bet, though.

He also tells me that back in 1993, when he joined Liffe, one of his first suggestions was a merger with the London Clearing House. But he was severely sat on by other Liffe board members who rejected the idea. This weekend, of course, we learned that one of the first strategic moves under consideration by Williamson is a merger with the LCH. Funny old Liffe.



IN THE RED SQUARE

AS WE all tut-tut over the commercialisation of British football, a truly heart-rending story reaches me from the Romanian fourth division, where Recolta Laza has been engaged in a titanic transfer fee struggle with Steamic Buda over the club's goalkeeper, Valentin Bargan. He has finally gone over to Steamic after the latter doubled the transfer fee.

The successful bidder offered him untold riches, or the equivalent in local money of \$11.55. But the deal was clinched by the fringe benefit his new employer was prepared to offer, a truckful of firewood. Bargan explained: "The club I quit offered me only a carful to stay on." Now all he needs is a match...



# Heaven-sent

THE Farnborough Air Show is not best known for idealism — all those ads boasting about 95 per cent kill ratios, while a couple of days ago the man from Raytheon was celebrating the end of the peace dividend and the return of good, old-fashioned mass slaughter. So a hand, therefore, for PeaceAir.

The Sri Lankan airline started six years ago to fly religious travellers to places of worship and pledged to contribute 80 per cent of profits to hospitals and the elderly and to promote "peace, harmony and joy through the interaction of the world's peoples".

Yesterday the fledgling signed a deal to buy its first

Boeing 747. It was all too much for Gemini Wethasinghe, the chairman, who held a conference at Farnborough and promptly broke down in tears in front of the world's press. Bless them.

A READER receives one of those worthless "you have won two thousand pounds — now you get the chance to enter our lottery" circulars. Standard WFB fodder, complete with spoof cheque. But this one claims mighty financial backing. International Monetary Fund, no less, although of Australia, which rather spoils it. In a further attempt for credibility the payment office is named "Secor G-7" and the letter has all the Group of Seven flags across the masthead. Ten points for effort, boys.

# Hot air

WHEN I first met Barry J Gibbons I was heading for mild Frostbite and he was shouting at me. I bear no grudge; it was at the Florida HQ of Burger King, which he was then running, and they had the air conditioning on. Gibbons was on the podium handing out a corporate pep-talk.

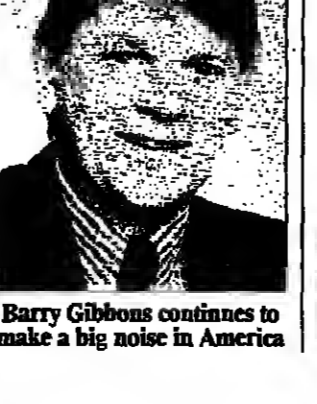
As his voice rose and fell in one of those Billy Graham-style rants US executives favour — "we are DETERMINED to become the MOST SUCCESSFUL and DYNAM-

IC providers of FAST FOOD", etc — I decided that the Manchester-born Gibbons had already become more American than the Americans. Now he has proved it by writing a management textbook.

If YOU want to make GOD REALLY LAUGH SHOW HIM YOUR business PLAN (sic; old habits die hard) purports to be 101 universal laws of business. "Never hire anyone... who is not capable of hitting you" is number 93, and appears in number 24, too.

Gibbons left Burger King at the end of 1993 after a much-admired turnaround job there and now advises and lectures to numerous blue chips including Arthur Andersen, Microsoft and IBM — which must involve a lot of shouting.

# MARTIN WALLER



Barry Gibbons continues to make a big noise in America

**Flying to Japan?**

with **FIRST CLASS** you can relax all the way...

You can relax in one of ANA's wings of comfort.

180-degree fully reclining First Class Seats

with an 83 inch seat pitch - the world's largest.

For further information on ANA's First Class, please call your IATA agent or ANA Reservations on **0345 262 262**

ANA All Nippon Airways

### QMH to get £42m for hotels

Queens Moat Houses is raising £42.3 million with the sale of its 11 French and Belgian hotels. The buyer is WW Franbel Holdings, a company formed by Westmont Hospitality Inc, a private US hotel company, and Whitehall, a real estate investment fund managed by Goldman Sachs. The QMH hotels being sold have a total of 2,137 rooms and earned an operating profit of £2.3 million in 1997. The profit on the disposal is estimated at £8 million.

### SGB ahead

SGB, the scaffolding group that floated on the stock market last year, raised pre-tax profits by 30 per cent to £8.6 million in the six months to June 30 on sales up from £131.4 million to £134.7 million. The shares rose 10p to 175p and a maiden half-year dividend of 2.9p a share has been declared out of earnings up from 6p to 8.1p. Ken Minton, the chairman, said the board was confident about continued progress in line with its expectations.

### R&D partnership

Two of Britain's large aerospace companies have joined with three leading universities in a joint programme of research into future engineering design processes for the 21st century. British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce are jointly investing £15 million in setting up a five-year University Technology Partnership agreement with the Universities of Cambridge, Sheffield and Southampton.

### Diploma up

Shares in Diploma rose from 163p to 171p after the distribution group sold its 99 per cent interest in Wakefield Electronics Group, which trades as South Hills Datacomm, to Black Box Corporation for £14.8 million cash. South Hills is a specialist provider of cable and network connectivity products, based in Pittsburgh with branches in Miami, Puerto Rico and Chile.

# Profit warning sees Albright shares slip

By MARTIN BARROW

ANOTHER profit warning from Albright & Wilson, the speciality chemicals company, saw 11 per cent wiped from its stock market value yesterday. The company, whose shares have now halved in value since June, said the continued strength of sterling and the Asian crisis would hit full-year profits.

Albright & Wilson, which came to the stock market in 1995 by way of a demerger from Tenneco, said second-half earnings would come in below the first half, which was itself severely affected by troubled markets.

In the six months to June 30 pre-tax profits fell 9 per cent to

£27.7 million. The company said the strong pound reduced profits by £6 million, with a further £3 million shaved off by the Asian crisis. In constant currencies profits would have been up 11 per cent year-on-year.

The company is holding the interim dividend at 2.35p a share. Paul Rocheleau, chief executive, said: "We are anticipating a continued slowdown in industrial activity in many of our market sectors and, as a result, for the group overall, we expect the second-half profit before tax to be slightly down on the first half."

He added: "We are taking firm action to ensure our busi-

nesses are well positioned to withstand the strong pound and the market changes resulting from global economic conditions."

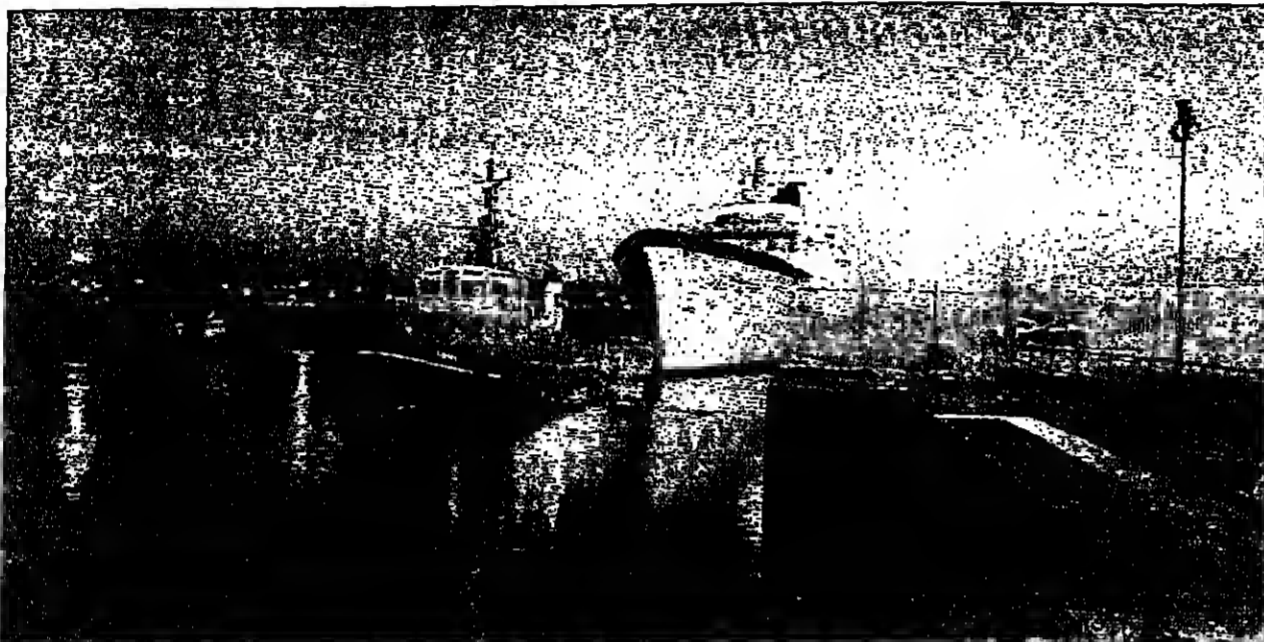
Albright & Wilson shares, which reached a 12-month high of 191p in June, fell 11p to 97p yesterday, their lowest level since flotation, with analysts downgrading full-year profit forecasts by 10 per cent.

Mr Rocheleau said: "We are very conscious of the need to enhance shareholder value. We remain committed to improving our financial performance so that the underlying progress of the group is clearly reflected in our reported results."

The company's phosphates business lifted operating profits to £17.3 million from £15.2 million on turnover that advanced to £168 million from £147 million.

Despite the benefit of the acquisition of outstanding minority interests in A&W Troy in Mexico margins were adversely affected by the cost of maintaining market share in the UK and the reduction in the level of exports from the UK into Asia.

In surfactants operating profits rose to £10.4 million from £8.3 million. But in phosphorous derivatives and acrylics profits fell to £8.2 million from £10.9 million.



ABP, which owns ports around the country, such as Barrow in Cumbria, above, said strong sterling had affected trade

## ABP reports decline in exports

ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS, the UK's biggest ports operator, yesterday said it had seen exports decline in the first six months of the year (Christine Buckley writes).

The company, which owns a string of ports around the country, said the strong pound had hit some trade at its ports in South Wales where coal and steel exports had also fallen.

Pre-tax profits for the half year rose 11 per cent to £57 million although ABP's

share price fell 14p to 270p as the market registered disappointment at the size of the dividend increase. The interim dividend, payable November 2, was raised to 4.5p from 4p whereas the market had hoped for 4.8p.

ABP sold £56 million worth of property in non-port investment properties and development properties.

Negative City sentiment also hangs over ABP's £106 million acquisition of American Port Services. But ABP repeated

its promise that APS, which handles 15 per cent of US car imports and exports, would be earnings enhancing next year. ABP's share price has slumped from more than 377p in May when the US takeover was announced.

In the first six months overall tonnage at ABP's ports increased 3 per cent while vehicle imports and exports rose 14 per cent.

Underlying earnings per share rose from 10p to 11.1p.

### Creditors put O&Y tower up for live auction

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BONDHOLDERS who lost millions on a 44-storey Olympia & York office tower next to the World Trade Center in New York are to sell it by live auction.

Bidding will start at \$76.25 million (£45.6 million) following a bankruptcy filing by Olympia & York (Maiden Lane, a subsidiary of the Canadian company that developed Canary Wharf in London and collapsed in 1992). Paul Reichmann, the head of Olympia & York, has since led a rescue of the London development.

The auction of Maiden Lane will mean that the bondholders, who have been in a legal battle over the building for six years, will at last see a return on their money.

Among the tower's tenants are Home Insurance Company, which is also in bankruptcy proceedings, and the Federal Reserve Bank, the US central bank. The main tenants will move out within the next two years. Currently, 39 per cent of the space is unoccupied.

The bondholders are owed \$295 million resulting from bonds issued on the Luxembourg exchange in 1985. Ken Zalkin, the property agent, indicated that interested buyers at the auction on October 20 may include property companies from Britain.

To hold a live auction is a highly unusual method of selling a property of more than one million square feet. Mr Zalkin said the creditors had chosen to hold a live auction to gather as much information as possible about buyers.

He said: "The bondholders are in charge." The bondholders have been in negotiations with Olympia & York for several years. Olympia & York has also fought a prolonged legal battle over rent payments with Home Insurance.

If no bidders show up for the auction at Manhattan's Metropolitan Club, the property will fall to Amtrust, another developer, for \$75 million.

If it does get sold Amtrust will receive a \$1 million break-up fee.

## Software that keeps cool in the event of any crisis

Even the largest of companies can be ill-prepared for a crisis. How many management teams can honestly say they already have a plan of action drawn up in case, for example, a customer drops dead in one of their stores, or their chief executive is kidnapped while on a business trip abroad?

Not many, probably. In fact, some may actually welcome the latter. But for those who would like to reassure themselves — and their shareholders and employees — that they could cope in a crisis, a new software package has been produced by Hill & Knowlton, the public relations company. The product, called prompt rps (standing for reputation protection system) will be launched today by Martin Sorrell, chairman of WPP, the marketing services group that owns H&K.

As you would expect from a PR company, H&K has compiled a list of alarming examples of why you should buy its product.

Computer crime is growing at 500 per cent a year, the company says, with two thirds of all companies having been hit by fraud in the past five years. In 1997, it goes on, there were more than 8,000 kidnappings, mainly in Latin America. Apparently most smaller companies believe that expert help would be out of their financial reach if they suffered such a crisis.

H&K may be laying it on thick, but the message behind the hype is a sound one: it pays to prepare for the worst. Although the software will be sold by H&K, it has been produced with the help of several other companies. These include experts in fraud (Deloitte & Touche), insurance (AIG), health and safety (Dames & Moore), security (Kroll Associates) and law (Clifford Chance).

For £495 customers will get a computer CD-Rom which can assess their company's vulnerability to certain kinds of crises, and advise it on how to cope if the worst happens. All the customer has to do is fill in various details about their company, and the program will do the rest. Not only will the

software tell the company where it is vulnerable — a food producer, to quote an obvious example, could be vulnerable to poisoning customers — it will also teach the user how to take precautions.

The software also has about 17 direct trigger points: events which are considered to be an out-and-out crisis. These include such things as loss of regulatory approval, product failure, corporate leaks, or uncovering a case of sexual harassment. If a company wants to know how well prepared it is, H&K will mark it against an international benchmark. The software package can be expanded to include expert help from a team at H&K for a considerably larger sum (£16,500). The only thing that H&K does not say is what happens if you have a crisis and your CD-Rom drive breaks down.

THE computer games industry is now growing faster than both the music and film industry, according to the research produced for this week's annual ECTS Interactive Entertainment Awards.

The event is a key time for companies such as Eidos, Sony, Nintendo and Hasbro to show off their products before the run-up to Christmas. Eidos this week unveiled its new game Tomb Raider III, while Hasbro showed off its first original title for PCs, called Hedz. Intel, the microchip manufacturer, demonstrated its three-dimensional graphics software run through its Pentium II processors.

WHEN asked to predict which high-tech products would storm the market over coming years, an expert panel of business leaders at this week's Wall Street Journal summit in London listed the following data visualisation products (databases which allow statistics to be viewed three-dimensionally); Internet security software (which aids safe money transactions over the Web); and light-emitting polymer displays (bendy pieces of plastic that can be used as computer monitors or television screens).

CHRIS AYRES



THE TIMES

FRIDAY  
30p

If you're a teacher, a student or a parent, Education is for you. Plus Music brings you rock, pop, classical and opera reviews.

The Times. Now only 30p weekdays.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

### Peptide trials on track

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the vaccine development company, expects to have the results of phase II trials of its typhoid vaccine and of its hay fever product by the end of the year.

The typhoid trial has raised no safety concerns. The company said its most important

project, the allergy vaccine being developed with Smith-Kline Beecham, remained on track.

First-half losses rose to £4.3 million from £2.7 million, reflecting the absence of licence payments from Smith-Kline Beecham. Peptide ended the half with cash of £15.9 million.

### Falling pig prices hit PIC's prospects

By MATTHEW BARBOUR

PIC International, the pig breeding company that emerged as the successor to the slimmed-down Dalgety, has warned that profits will be affected if the fall in pig prices is not reversed.

The company, which has seen its share price almost half in recent weeks, said that pig prices have fallen to their lowest level in 30 years, and that some farmers no longer found it profitable to feed a litter born from PIC-bred stock.

However, Andrew Allner, finance director, said that any impact on profits would be restricted to the short term as pork consumption was growing in all regions and the decline in prices was largely a result of overproduction.

"The normally independent cycle of rising and falling pig prices in Europe and North America has occurred at the same time in both regions. This abnormal cycle will probably result in a further £3 million hit in the next financial year," he said.

He added that the company did not rule out acquisition as a means of easing its reliance on pig farming rather than bloodstock improvement.

PIC reported pre-tax profits for the year ending June 30 of £69.9 million (£66.2 million) on sales of £220 million (£212 million). With all the old Dalgety business stripped out, PIC achieved profits of £28 million, roughly in line with analysts' estimates. The board is not recommending a final dividend. The total dividend for the year is 5p (14.5p).

## PremierOil

INTERIM RESULTS 1998

1998 HAS BEEN PREMIER'S MOST SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR EXPLORATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Net Profits after Tax of £9.1 million
- Cash Flow for reinvestment of £34.3 million
- Anticipated Oil & Gas reserve additions from 1998 drilling to date of 130 million barrels of oil equivalent - a 39% increase
- The newly formed Premier / Shell joint company in Pakistan holds the leading position in this high gas demand market
- Indonesia and Singapore agree 22-year gas sales from the West Natuna Sea Group, in which Premier has a 30% interest
- Significant exploration success in Pakistan gas
- Balal oilfield, Iran - entry into low cost Middle East oil

Charles Jamieson, Chief Executive, commented:

"In the first half of 1998 Premier has had outstanding exploration success and has further strengthened its significant position in Pakistan, Myanmar and Indonesia."

Premier's strategy of developing markets for long term Asian gas assets and low cost oil in the Middle East enhances our ability to operate in the cyclical oil environment. It will provide sustainable cash flows during the downturns and robust upside during the upturns."

For further information, please call Premier Oil at: +44 (0) 171 730 1111

صكزا من الاصل

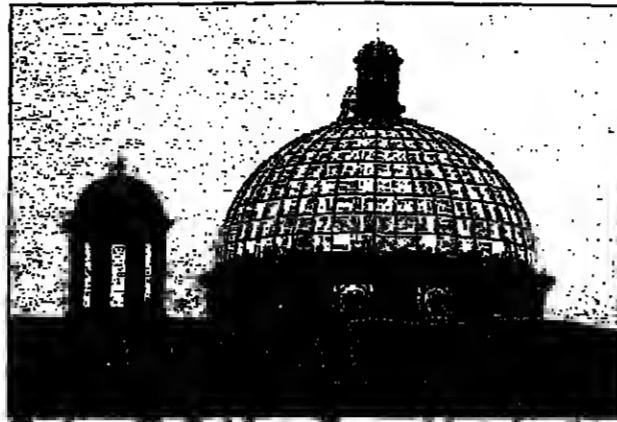


Fraser Nelson reports on the success of Britain's latest megamall

Whittaker savours Trafford result

AFTER 12 years of wrangling with government over permission to create the £600 million Trafford Centre, John Whittaker can now savour the results of his battle. The chairman of Peel Holdings has brought to life one of the last developments to win approval before the Government banned the construction of megacentres. As a result, the Trafford Centre will now enjoy the status of being one of the UK's eight megamalls - giving it a scarcity value that should allow it to raise rents year after year. Peel Holdings has now signed 252 retailers to the 280 shops, and expects that 30 million visitors a year will spend £13 billion in its shops and restaurants. Boasting a catchment area of 5.5 million people within 45

minutes' drive, the centre has charged rents of up to £350 per square foot - some of the most expensive in the UK. The highest UK retail rent is £450 per square foot in Knightsbridge, where Guess recently opened. The City says Trafford should bring in rental income of over £30 million a year. Almost all its leases last 25 years, and come up for rent review every five years. By any standards, the centre seems to be a cash cow. Such large centres tend to drain customers from existing high streets but industry observers say that recent examples suggest that Manchester's shops may not be the first to suffer from the building of the Trafford Centre - especially because there are no easy tram links between Trafford Centre and the city.



The dome of Trafford Centre. Photograph by Andrew Yates

Clive Vaughan, analyst at Verdict Research, said: "We only have to look at Metrocentre to see what the effects will be. Its success has been phenomenal and Eldon Square (Newcastle's city shopping centre) has done as well. It is the little stores in Chester Le Street and Gateshead that will suffer." So where will shopping mall

developers now go to find their growth? Capital Shopping Centres, which owns the Metrocentre and nine other malls, says that the potential for these megacentres was already peaking before the Government stepped in. John Abel, its property director, said: "There is a natural limit to how many of these big shopping centres could be built: there is room for some more, but there would not have been a proliferation of them." Land Securities, which is Britain's largest shopping centre developer, has long decided to base its growth on adding space to its existing 30 malls - most of them in city centres. It has 7 million square feet of retail space, and thinks it can add 4.5 million sq ft of space just by expansion and refurbishment. The City, certainly, thinks that developers will have enough to keep them busy by spending more money on the town-centre developments. Selwyn Jones, property analyst at Crédit Lyonnais, said: "This just means that development companies will have to look harder to find sites in town centres - their business is not going to come to a stop." Only two megamalls remain to be built. The \$50,000 sq ft Brayhead, near Glasgow, is being finished by Capital Shopping Centres. Bluewater, a 1.7 million sq ft site, will be Britain's largest mall when it is opened in Kent by Lend Lease, an Australian property giant. After that, developers will have to content themselves with the high street.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

KS Biomedix plans full market listing

KS BIOMEDIX, the drug development company whose shares have been among this year's top performers, is planning to move up to a full listing on the Alternative Investment Market. Valued at £106 million, KS Biomedix is already worth more than several fully listed biotechnology companies. Its shares have soared to 251 1/2p from 105p in January on the back of promising early results from a phase II trial of its rheumatoid arthritis tablets. Kim Tan, managing director, will not be selling any more of his 64.3 per cent stake. He sold £2 million of shares in March when KS Biomedix raised £6.6 million of new money. With £7.9 million in cash, Dr Tan said the firm does not need to raise more on its flotation on the main market. Losses in the six months to May 31 worsened from £847,000 to £1 million. "We run the company pretty tightly as far as cash burn is concerned," Dr Tan said.

Dickinson to shed 400

JOHN DICKINSON Stationery is to close its Apsley manufacturing site with the loss of about 400 jobs. David S Smith, its parent, said that the business continued to incur losses despite a restructuring and production would be switched from the Hertfordshire plant to the three remaining Dickinson sites. A spokesman for David S Smith said that trading across the group continued to be affected by the strength of sterling and by weakness in the corrugated box market. Conditions were likely to remain difficult in the UK, it said.

British Fittings 'fragile'

SHARES in British Fittings fell 7 1/2p to 86 1/2p after the distribution group turned in a slight rise in pre-tax profits from £2.37 million to £2.43 million in the six months to June 30. The dividend was held at 1.65p out of earnings down from 6.92p to 4.6p. Michael Borlenghi, the chairman, said: "Prospects in the UK remain fragile... while many of our customers are suffering from the overall economic situation, we are not being affected to the same degree as many other companies."

Gearhouse sets target

GEARHOUSE, the business presentation company, is targeting a French acquisition which it hopes to announce soon. It raised full-year pre-tax profits to £6.23 million compared with £5.06 million the previous year. Earnings rose from 24.9p to 25.8p and the total dividend from 7p to 7.6p after payment of a 5p final. The company has 10 per cent of the UK market but only 3 per cent of the world market and sees scope for further growth. It is aiming for a 30 per cent rise in profits this year.

Seita reveals buyback

SEITA, the French tobacco group that makes Gauloises and Gitanes cigarettes, said its net attributable profit for the first six months rose 19.5 per cent to Fr425 million (£44 million). The company said it would start a buyback programme for 10 per cent of its shares. Seita set a modest profit forecast for the whole year, saying it expected "progression" over the 1997 figure of Fr1.25 billion. A spokesman said: "The first half was marked by a return to normal cigarette prices in France."

Hiscox back in profit

HISCOX, the insurance group, returned to profit in the first half with a £335,000 pre-tax profit against previous losses of £927,000. Earnings were 0.4p against losses per share of 0.7p and the interim dividend goes up from 1.1p to 1.2p. Hiscox said its interim results are not a reliable guide to the full year, but the shares rose 8p to 212 1/2p. Robert Hiscox, the chairman, said the group would produce underwriting profits "by intelligent underwriting backed by creative marketing".

Rugby hails 15% upturn in first half

RUGBY GROUP, the building materials company whose shares have almost halved since the end of May, sought to reassure investors about future prospects yesterday with a relatively upbeat statement on current trading. Reporting a 15 per cent rise in underlying profits in the first half, the company said demand in its main markets has so far remained stable despite the uncertain economic outlook. Peter Johnson, chief executive, said an unusually weak second quarter in the UK had been followed by a resilient third quarter, with cement volumes slightly ahead of last year. Mr Johnson said the most likely outcome for the rest of the year is "no worse than a modest correction". In the United States demand remains strong, with evidence of weakness in any of the group's markets. The market in The Netherlands was described as stable while Poland continued to enjoy growth, despite problems elsewhere in Eastern Europe. In Australia market weakness was so far limited to demand for lime from the gold sector. Despite the comments, Rugby shares fell 3p to 79 1/2p yesterday. They traded at 142 1/2p just three months ago. The company reported pre-tax profits of £35.2 million for the half-year to the end of June. This compared with £23.7 million in the first half of the previous year, when there was a £12.2 million restructuring charge. There was a nine per cent rise in pre-exceptional operating profits and a 16 per cent increase adjusted for the impact of currencies. In the UK Rugby Cement reported unchanged profits on sales that were 7 per cent higher. Sales volumes in the domestic market were up more than 3 per cent, helped by strong demand in the South East and the Midlands. However, profits were affected by higher maintenance costs on repairs of older plant. Work is under way to replace aged plant to secure annual savings of £12 million. Rugby is lifting the interim dividend to 1.75p a share from 1.65p, payable from earnings of 3.9p a share (2.5p last time).



Bouncing back: Peter Johnson, right, and Mike Sharp, finance director, of Rugby Group

Devro slides on warning

SHARES in Devro fell a further 22 1/2p to 222 1/2p after the food producer revealed a fall in pre-tax profits from £25.6 million to £23.7 million in the first half and warned the market again that full-year profits will be less than last year (George Sivel writes). Sales fell from £140.5 million to £130.9 million, earnings fell from 10.3p to 9.6p, but the half year dividend rose 6.5 per cent to 3.3p. Bruce Farmer, the chairman, said: "Our world-wide sales volumes have been broadly in line with the prior year but difficult market conditions and unfavourable currency movements have resulted in a lower reported trading profit for the six months to June 30. The board expect trading to continue to be difficult given the uncertainty in the Russian and South-East Asian markets, with full-year profits for 1998 expected to be lower than those achieved in 1997." He said the board was "confident" about the prospects for long-term growth.

Glynwed's shares suffer as profit slips

SHARES in Glynwed tumbled 18 1/2p to 185p yesterday after the engineering group revealed a fall in profits of £3.6 million to £40.3 million in the six months to June 30. Sales fell from £632 million to £552 million, and earnings per share fell from 11.9p to 11.2p although the half-year dividend remains 4.4p. Tony Wilson, the chief executive, said: "We are maintaining reasonable volumes in most sectors, but prices for manufactured goods are under increasing pressure almost everywhere. Our emerging business profile, unimpeded by those mature businesses which have been sold, leaves us in a better position to face the challenging conditions for the rest of the year." Mr Wilson said the group has around £150 million to spend on acquisitions without waiting for further disposals. He added that there was no rush to sell the metal process businesses. Remaining metals activities may be sold in whole or broken down into parts. Mr Wilson has sold 16 mature non-core businesses in the last 18 months and bought five companies.

ACCOUNTANCY

Make training fit for today

The ICAEW's qualification is too inflexible and generalist for modern requirements, says Ted Atwy

This autumn some 4,500 graduates will start on the path to becoming qualified chartered accountants through the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. However, as with so many aspects of an ever-changing business environment, questions have been asked by trainees and sponsoring firms about the meaning and relevance of the qualification - questions that the institute is seeking to address. The ACA qualification has established pre-eminence among business qualifications. It is renowned across the globe and has an enviable record for careers in international business. One only has to look at boards of big UK companies to see how much value has historically been put on the qualification. However, in many organisations that were previously almost entirely focused on the ACA qualification, there is a trend towards adopting training routes to specialist professional qualifications to suit the needs of their business. In industry, MBAs and CIMA and other qualifications are increasingly popular. In smaller practices, ACCA and AAT



Ted Atwy backs a move to added-value business advisers

have been adopted extensively. In my firm, KPMG, the increasingly specialised nature of our business and the demand for specialist knowledge have led us to adopt other qualifications in our tax practice. In our audit and accounting practice and elsewhere, I believe that this trend will grow and we will see specialist qualifications rise in popularity. After all, what company in today's highly competitive market can afford to offer generalist training that does not bring it short-term returns? The ICAEW risks losing a big slice of its recruitment market if it does not change its professional qualification method to reflect the markets in which its main constituents operate. Moves to other professional qualifications and training routes are driven largely by a perception that the ICAEW qualification has failed to keep up with changes in the market. The ACA qualification is too rigid in content and remains a generalist training. Other institutes could be in a position to offer a more meaningful qualification. ACA training seeks to cover too much syllabus content, but in insufficient detail to meet

be members. However, they have finally emerged. The proposals in Creating the Added-Value Business Adviser offer opportunities for the ICAEW membership to address the threat and develop a programme flexible enough to meet the needs of specialised business areas while keeping the essentials for all students covering principles needed for a career as an accountant. The inclusion of business management across the syllabus surely cannot be disputed as essential for maintaining and enhancing the standing of the qualification. Similarly, the opportunity for students to undertake a more in-depth study in their specialism at the advanced stage will provide greater relevance and let the ICAEW qualification compete with specialist qualifications. The proposals will also help to bring greater flexibility of study method and allow options other than traditional tutor-based classroom study. Some members of the institute would rather it continued to offer a traditional qualification. Sadly, there is no room for such sentiments in today's world. We must never forget our heritage, but by not facing the future, we will be stuck in an irrelevant past. I urge the institute to adopt the proposals without delay. Ted Atwy is UK head of audit with KPMG

Opportunity knocks in corporate finance

THE WORLD of the corporate financier is one in which seat-of-the-pants decisions have to be somehow balanced with legal certainties. It is small wonder that lawyers, accountants and investment bankers end up arguing over where the buck might finally stop. One accountant from a Big Five firm recalls finalising a £4 billion deal. The client leapt across with a smile and asked him how it felt to be carrying such an onerous risk. The accountant smiled back and pointed out that £400 million was the amount that they were insured for and after that they were bust. The client's smile faded. It is a game. Everyone wants to maximise their returns for the least assumption of risk. Investment banks, argue the accountants, lay risk off onto the professions. It is unfair, they say. Investment banks can't run huge transactions without bearing some of the risk. The investment banks argue that if you ask a firm of accountants to do the due diligence work, they should take the rap if something goes wrong. It is also a clash of cultures. The accountants see themselves bearing the brunt of the risk. The investment banks become exasperated with their prudence. "We have had ghastly things in the last year," says one investment banker. "One deal had to be pulled the day before completion because they came back and said 'Our technical people won't wear it.'" Accountants point to their current dispute with the Association of British Insurers over efforts to cap liability when giving letters of comfort to debenture trustees about covenant compliance. "Anyone with common sense could do the work," says one senior corporate finance partner. "People might think that we are giving comfort on a £160 million bond issue. But really all we have been asked to do is check the calculations." In such cases, bankers themselves could do the work. But they don't because they would have to live on the edge of everything went pear-shaped. So there is deadlock. And due diligence work grinds ever slower. This year, it has been known for negotiations about the terms of engagement alone to cost six-figure sums. So investment bankers are trying to end the deadlock and have written to the Office of Fair Trading arguing that there are only five firms to choose from and it is un-

fair that they get together and agree capping limits among themselves. And so it disputes tailies. It is small wonder that lawyers, accountants and investment bankers end up arguing over where the buck might finally stop. One accountant from a Big Five firm recalls finalising a £4 billion deal. The client leapt across with a smile and asked him how it felt to be carrying such an onerous risk. The accountant smiled back and pointed out that £400 million was the amount that they were insured for and after that they were bust. The client's smile faded. It is a game. Everyone wants to maximise their returns for the least assumption of risk. Investment banks, argue the accountants, lay risk off onto the professions. It is unfair, they say. Investment banks can't run huge transactions without bearing some of the risk. The investment banks argue that if you ask a firm of accountants to do the due diligence work, they should take the rap if something goes wrong. It is also a clash of cultures. The accountants see themselves bearing the brunt of the risk. The investment banks become exasperated with their prudence. "We have had ghastly things in the last year," says one investment banker. "One deal had to be pulled the day before completion because they came back and said 'Our technical people won't wear it.'" Accountants point to their current dispute with the Association of British Insurers over efforts to cap liability when giving letters of comfort to debenture trustees about covenant compliance. "Anyone with common sense could do the work," says one senior corporate finance partner. "People might think that we are giving comfort on a £160 million bond issue. But really all we have been asked to do is check the calculations." In such cases, bankers themselves could do the work. But they don't because they would have to live on the edge of everything went pear-shaped. So there is deadlock. And due diligence work grinds ever slower. This year, it has been known for negotiations about the terms of engagement alone to cost six-figure sums. So investment bankers are trying to end the deadlock and have written to the Office of Fair Trading arguing that there are only five firms to choose from and it is un-



ROBERT BRUCE

English ICA's corporate finance faculty, he suggests an interesting change in the future. If a recession takes hold, the biggest corporate finance firms cannot cope with their costs. "They may have to merge and call themselves Merrill, Goldman, Stanley, or whatever," he said. "We could finish up with only three or four big firms worldwide." At the other end of the market, a boutique business can live on its wits. A huge gap opens in the middle. "The market," said Smith, "is there for the accountants." And as accountants fill that gap, firms in the mid-tier of the profession, which are already pitching into the corporate finance market with gusto, could tool up for work that currently only the Big Five can cope with. "As a breed," said Smith, "accountants are astonishingly adaptive."

Taste of jail for Treasury critics

AFTER the Treasury jumped on it for daring to suggest that the Public Finance Initiative is a way of smuggling assets off a balance sheet like all those disgraced companies in the 1980s, the Accounting Standards Board bowed clever. It was clearly not enough to say that clearly not enough to say that if companies were not allowed to do it, neither should government. The ASB began a fact-finding project. Its members poured jabs to show they were investigating the PFI's workings. Kathryn Cairns, the ASB project director, was converted. "You could see the efficiencies," she said. "But it underlined that we were right." Ken Wild, an ASB board member, declared it "fascinating". Sir David Tweedie, the ASB chief, was wiser. "I didn't go," he said. "They would probably have locked me up."

Straight talking

SENIOR KPMG partners were smiling rather uncomfortable at last week's inaugural Sir Ronald Leach memorial lecture, held in honour of their greatest senior partner. The lecture was given by Sir Brian Pitman, head chap at Lloyds Bank and Business Leader of the Year 1998. He talked about what constitutes business success, and tore into everything that accountants tend to lecture clients about. "The balanced scorecard," he said, "...it's a load of rubbish." Mission statements about being biggest were also rubbish. "The biggest are by no means the most successful," he said, which may be consoling news for Price-waterhouseCoopers. He then touched on the issue of being "global market leader". Colin Sharman, KPMG's senior partner, looked nervous. The firm's latest annual report is full of stuff about "global imperatives". "It just means a hell of a lot of flags across the world and

Popularity poll

RESULTS of the survey into members' views on merger possibilities conducted by the CIPFA public sector accounting body should make interesting reading. Members are asked to rank the other five accounting bodies in order of preference as possible merger partners. Home truths may not speed the process of rationalising the profession.

Popularity poll

RESULTS of the survey into members' views on merger possibilities conducted by the CIPFA public sector accounting body should make interesting reading. Members are asked to rank the other five accounting bodies in order of preference as possible merger partners. Home truths may not speed the process of rationalising the profession.

fall

The cat's whiskers: Sprite

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

WITHDRAWN advertisement with a large arrow pointing to the right and text: 'If an ad misleads, we're here to stamp it out. Advertising Standards Authority. 2 Topping Place London WC1E 7TH Tel: 011 580 5555 www.asa.org.uk ASA'

Small text at the bottom right corner, possibly a page number or reference code.

Handwritten text at the top of the page.

Equities reverse early gains

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, ELECTRICITY, BUILDING MATERIALS, ELECTRONIC & ELECT, CHEMICALS, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, and ENGINEERING VEHICLES.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including FOOD MANUFACTURERS, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, and MEDIA.

Table of stock prices for various sectors including LEISURE & HOTELS, MINING, OIL & GAS, PHARMACEUTICALS, BRITISH FUNDS, and SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table of stock prices for various sectors including PRINTING & PAPER, PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT, WATER, RETAILERS, FOOD, RETAILERS, GENERAL, and SUPPORT SERVICES.

STOP! Are you about to break the law by copying from this newspaper? Under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, generally, it is unlawful to reproduce articles from newspapers without permission...



POP John Cale out of the Underground PAGE 38

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE A nurse for tomorrow's top act? PAGE 39



NEW ON VIDEO

AMISTAD CIC, IS, 1997 BEFORE Spielberg's film came out, few had heard of the Amistad slave ship...

AS GOOD AS IT GETS Columbia TriStar, IS, 1997 A SYNTHETIC, lolling crowd-pleasing comedy-drama...

THE CHESS PLAYER BFI, U, 1926 ONE of the most fascinating and stylish productions of French silent cinema...

PRETTY VILLAGE PRETTY FLAME Pathe, IS, 1996 BELGRADE-born director Srđjan Dragojević plunges us into the cruelty and absurdity of the Bosnian war...

GEOFF BROWN

The action hero on to a good thing

FILM: Mel Gibson couldn't resist the lure of another Lethal Weapon sequel. He tells Martyn Palmer why

When Mel Gibson's close friend and long-term collaborator, the director Richard Donner, first tentatively mentioned the possibility of returning for a fourth time to the Lethal Weapon films...

I think that was right. In all honesty, I think we needed a break from it just to be able to attack it with some kind of enthusiasm and commitment.

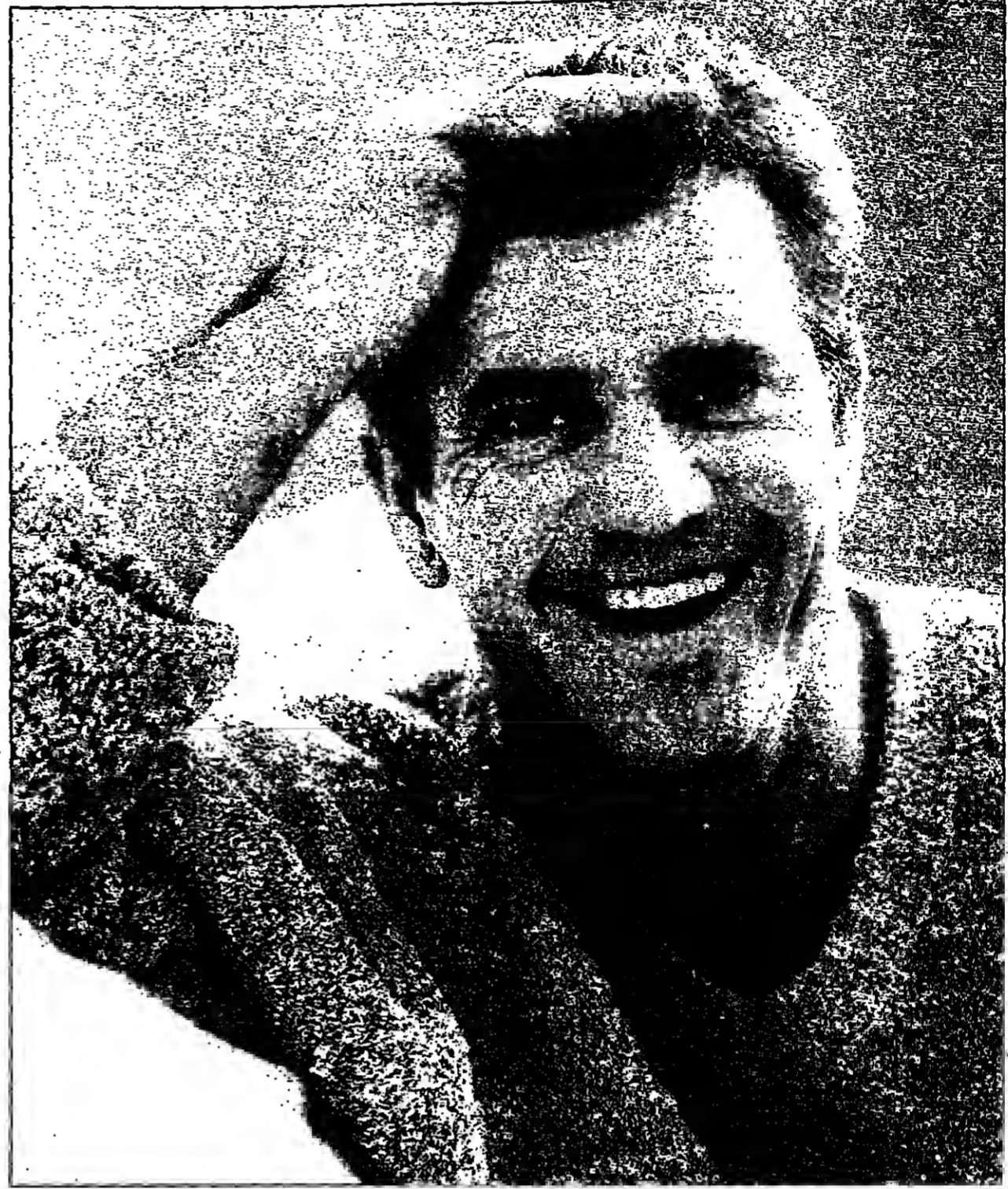
"I think we broke a trend with action films when we made the first Lethal Weapon"

of loyalty to his close friend Donner (who has directed all the Lethal Weapon films as well as directing Gibson in Maverick and Conspiracy Theory) and to the producer Joel Silver...

The violence, a staple part of the Lethal Weapon diet, should not be taken too seriously, says the actor. "I just don't subscribe to the theory that people are affected by screen violence."

Gibson was convinced that the script for number four was well up to standard. Better, he feels, than those that went before, and he believes the film-makers found a new way to explore the relationship between Riggs and Murtaugh.

Born in upstate New York into a devoutly Catholic family, he is the sixth of 11 children. His parents used money they had won from a game show to emigrate to Australia when Gibson was 12. After school he



Mel Gibson has plenty to smile about. His new film, Lethal Weapon 4, is a huge box-office success in America

studied at the National Institute of Dramatic Art in Sydney and shortly after leaving college won the lead in George Miller's film Mad Max, playing a post-apocalyptic avenger. It was a role he returned to twice more.

He chose Hamlet, directed by Franco Zeffirelli, as Leon's first production, in 1990, and although the film was to receive mixed reviews, Gibson's performance as the melancholy Dane won him many admirers.

Gibson owns a cattle ranch in Montana, a sheep farm in New South Wales and homes in California and Connecticut, where he spends as much time as possible between filming with his wife of 18 years and their six children.

Gibson owns a cattle ranch in Montana, a sheep farm in New South Wales and homes in California and Connecticut, where he spends as much time as possible between filming with his wife of 18 years and their six children.

NEW CLASSICAL CDS: Hilary Finch on a monumental piano collection; plus other releases

The doors of the great Steinway factory in Hamburg were flung open for the launch of the millennium piano project par excellence: Philips's Great Pianists of the 20th Century edition.

who, what, which and why. Tom Deacon, producer of the edition, insists that this is a shamelessly personal selection, made "in consultation" with many of the pianists.

Each double CD is presented in a slim and handsomely designed and well-researched booklet/slipcase, marred only by some irritatingly tiny and

artily fuzzy photographs. From among those discs that I have sampled so far the repertoire chosen really does define each pianist's unique artistry.

Brendel's image of Kempff as "an Aeolian harp, responding to whatever wind blew his way" is inevitably represented by four concertos and only three solo pieces.

BAROQUE HANDEL Concerti Grossi, Op 6 AAM/Manze Harmonia Mundi HMU 907228-29 (2 CDs) \*\*\* £30.99

POULENC Les Mamelles de Tiresias/ Le Bal masque Bonney/Fouchecourt/Holzmaier/Saito Kinen Orchestra/Ozawa Philips 456 504-2 \*\*\* £15.99

OPERA POULENC Les Mamelles de Tiresias/ Le Bal masque Bonney/Fouchecourt/Holzmaier/Saito Kinen Orchestra/Ozawa Philips 456 504-2 \*\*\* £15.99

CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

JOHN HIGGINS Worth hearing \*\*\* Worth considering \*\*\* Worth buying

"A TRIUMPH... makes you want to get up and dance!" The Last Days of DISCO History is made at night. NOW SHOWING

NEW MOVIES: Master... Masto... W... THE 20TH CENTURY

سكزا من الاصل

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown hails Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* for its unstinting power and truthfulness

# Masterly portrayal of war's horror

There is a Hollywood film called *The Sullivans*, released in February 1944. Based on a painful true story, it tells of five devoted brothers, all enrolled in the Second World War, all serving and losing their lives on the same cruiser, the *Juneau*. Scenes of warfare are kept to a tasteful minimum; the bulk of the film consists of wholesome Americana, frolicking childhoods, and generous helpings of mom's apple pie.

*Saving Private Ryan* briefly alludes to the Sullivan brothers in a scene that sets the plot's motor turning. There are four Ryan brothers (a fictional brood) dispersed among the Services, fighting for Uncle Sam. Three have been killed in action within a few days; one remains, behind enemy lines in France. The American War Office decides to mount a rescue mission and bring the survivor home.

This time, though, there is no apple pie. It is not the time, nor the place. Steven Spielberg has a war to fight, and he fights it with a degree of hard detail unprecedented in fictional cinema.

Before *Ryan* is even mentioned, Spielberg's hand-held camera spends a good 20 minutes lurching with the D-Day invasion forces on the Normandy beaches, under fierce attack from German guns. So much noise; so much confusion; so much blood spewing out from ripped guts or streaking through the cold grey waters of the Channel.

No wonder veterans watching the film have had old nightmares rekindled: the sequence is disturbing enough for the vast audiences who only know warfare from snatches on the TV news or some Oliver Stone extravaganza.

Nor can we rest easy once Tom Hanks's Captain Miller leads his squad in the search for this unknown soldier, Machinegun posts dot the landscape; there are Germans to capture and shoot. Then, once their man is found guarding a bridge at Ramelle, tanks roll into the shattered town (a triumph of set design by Tom Sanders) and the screen erupts again with brutal fighting, biting, stabbing and sniping.

Where does this leave *Private Ryan*? Spielberg's spectacle, filmed on Irish beaches and the grounds of the disused British Aerospace factory in Hatfield, begins by deepening the paradox in Robert Rodat's script. Eight men undergo crazy perils to save the life of one ("This Ryan had better be worth it," one mutters).

Yet after a while, that point absorbed, one bullet through the head feels the same as any other. This is action brilliantly staged for its own sake.

In essence Rodat's script is very simple and could be mounted as a low-budget film or TV drama. Indeed, it might hit home more forcefully in intimate surroundings. Hanks is the leader, alive to his mission's ironies, but guided by innate decency to do the right thing. Tom Sizemore's Sergeant Horvath is his number two, the perfect professional soldier. Edward Burns's Private Reiben supplies Brooklyn

- Saving Private Ryan**  
Empire, 15, 170 mins  
Brilliant recreation of war's agonies
- Cousin Bette**  
Odeon Haymarket  
15, 108 mins  
An attempt at Balzac with balls
- La Vie de Jésus**  
ICA Cinema, 96 mins  
Stunning French first feature
- Babymother**  
Virgin Tricadero  
15, 82 mins  
Foot-tapping British reggae musical

cynicism, while Jeremy Davies is the audience's stand-in: a naive, bookish corporal, new to combat, serving as an interpreter.

Clever casting reinforces the air of realism, at least until the platoon finds a handsome kid determined to stick with his mates and defend his bridge. No wonder Washington wants Ryan saved: he's played by Matt Damon, heir to Leonardo DiCaprio's crown.

But this is the only instance of a role distorted by the actor's halo. And Spielberg, in general, keeps his own star status under control. We are no longer locked into the grandiose visual compositions customary when this director gets serious: the hand-held camera of *Janusz Kaminski* (veteran of *Schindler's List*) brings a new urgency and freedom to the visual storytelling.

What's more, there is less emotional manipulation than usual: the film only turns stiffly reverential in the contemporary scenes at the war cemetery, and the Washington scene that sets up the plot. Even John Williams, the film's composer, is well-behaved. Indeed, the greatest triumph of *Saving Private Ryan* may not be the realistic surface, but its refusal to spoon-feed an audience. Instead of screaming "war is hell" Spielberg encourages us to fight alongside Hanks's platoon, weigh the issues, and think for ourselves. Coming soon after the chocolate-box history of his last film, *Amistad*, this is especially bracing.

Chocolate-box cinema returns in *Cousin Bette*, a comedy of greed and revenge, based on Balzac. The setting is 1840s Paris, though the Tony Award-winning stage director Des McAnuff, in his cinema debut, tries to avoid a museum look, pinching the material like a contemporary romp.

Elisabeth Shue, as the courtesan Jenny, delights in baring her bottom and harbouring Bob Hoskins (the Mayor of Paris) under her skirt. Hugh Laurie acts amusingly degenerate as the aristocratic Hulot, while *Trainspotting* luminary Kelly Macdonald makes his daughter a petulant teenager; not a winning performance, this. Nor, after a while, is Jessica Lange's in the



The power, the brutality and the heartbreak of the battle zone: American soldiers on patrol in Steven Spielberg's outstanding epic of the Second World War, *Saving Private Ryan*

title role; you need some glints of humanity to keep this vivid interesting.

The cast, as you see, are a motley bunch, with accents to match. And here lies the main fault. The film seems assembled from a shopping list. Two American names for the box office: a cardoak of Brits for class. One Bordeaux chateau; 60 extras twirling parasols. Pastiche period music; gaudy decor; and goblets of rum-tumty. At the end of the day, *Cousin Bette*, a film of some wit and flair, is just not special enough to matter.

We stay in France for *La Vie de Jésus*, though for all the similarities of setting it might as well take place on Mars. The location is flat northern France, where youngsters with nothing to do or hope for eat up the fine racing mopeds over the country roads.

The biblical Jesus makes no appearance; this startling first film by Bruno Dumont uses its title to provoke, for there is little sign of salvation in the earthly life of Freddy, Michou, Gégé, Quinquin and company.

Dumont's task is difficult: how do you express bored lives without boring the audience? Attention to faces helps: David Douche, heading a cast of local people, is particularly

expressive as the 20-year-old hero, inarticulate anguish raging within. Dumont's wide-screen camera also stays close to the land: you can almost smell the soil. The unhurried pace is geared to the rhythms of unemployed youth, or the ritual of the bizarre Sunday songbird contest, trained chaffinches trilling away in their boxes.

Uncomfortably, Dumont maintains the same even gaze once the big things happen: a girl molested; an Arab family abused. *Rigorous* and tender both at once, *La Vie de Jésus* is a small gem, which all world cinema lovers should collect.

French cinémaniacs have another reason to smile: this September the National Film Theatre salutes the work of Julien

Duvivier. He was once regarded as one of France's top directors, though recent critical fashions have swept him under the carpet. How could we forget the panache of his 1930s episode film *Un Carnet de bal* (this Sunday), or Jean Gabin's gangster holed up in the Casbah in *Pépé le Moko*? Compared with Renoir, Duvivier may have been a meretricious

talent, flitting easily between genres in a 50-year career; but his technical command was awesome, as was his understanding of life's darker side.

There is no real heavy side in *Babymother*; just a lot of energy, and a plethora of musical numbers set in the Harlesden club where our heroine (Anjela Lauren Smith) dreams of being a DJ queen. In between we get thin fragments of plot outlining family problems. TV arts documentary-maker Julian Henriques may not have integrated his ingredients well, but he deserves cheers for celebrating the vibrant dance-hall culture, and banishing white faces. Performances, fashions and hairstyles are all equally infectious.

## SNAP VERDICT

### Stand by for shocks

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

■ **SAVING PRIVATE RYAN**  
Leslie Isabel Thomas, 20: You could hardly call this light entertainment. You won't leave the cinema afterwards with a smile on your face. Carl Clark, 19: Really good, but really harrowing. This is Steven Spielberg at his very best. Alison Julliard, 20: Tom Hanks has surpassed himself. One of the most moving screen performances I have ever seen. Charlotte Dalley, 19: You will be shocked. The battle scenes are so realistic, tears poured from my eyes.

■ **COUSIN BETTE**  
Leslie: Enjoyable trash, but save some money and wait until it's on video. Carl: Pretty similar to *Dangerous Liaisons* but without the class. Watchable, but not exactly art. Alison: Jessica Lange was brilliant; the film much less so. It was like a cheap American soap opera. Charlotte: The film was nothing special. I can't imagine why Lange bothered with nonsense like this.

■ **BABYMOTHER**  
Leslie: The reggae songs were OK, but this film just doesn't work. Do your best to avoid it, even when it turns up on television. Carl: Totally bizarre. This must surely be one of the strangest and least entertaining movies ever made. Alison: I was bored and wanted to leave the cinema. Very, very odd. Charlotte: I don't like reggae.

## MONET IN THE 20TH CENTURY: PAINTING OF THE DAY



Each day this week Richard Cork selects outstanding paintings from the forthcoming Royal Academy show

TODAY: Weeping Willow, 1918-19

During the First World War, when France was invaded by German troops, Monet's garden haven at Giverny suddenly

try's fate, and fearful for his son Michel fighting at the Front, he turned his attention to the weeping willows at the lily pond's edge. Without indulging in heavy symbolism, he gave the tree in this powerful canvas a sense of anguish.

Using paint with unusual thickness, Monet makes the twisted trunk and branches writhe with tormented emo-

age is far removed from the serenity of other water-garden paintings.

► Times readers have exclusive priority booking access to 50,000 tickets for the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* exhibition (Jan 23 to April 19, 1999), sponsored by Ernst & Young. Telephone Firstcall (0870 842 2200), booking fee £1.80 per ticket on first

THE TIMES

FRIDAY

30p

In tomorrow's 30p Times, read exclusive extracts from Richard Branson's autobiography, *Losing My Virginity*.

The Times. Now only 30p weekdays.

http://www.the-times.co.uk

CHANGING TIMES

LISTINGS

Wigmore reopens

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marti Hargie

LONDON
ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS: Felicity Kendal, Joelle Lawrence...



Felicity Kendal returns to the West End stage

ELSEWHERE
HALIFAX: Barrie Rutter plays Samson with Isha Barrington...

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London

THE AFRICAN COMPANY
FRIDAY'S RICHARD III: Ceryle Brown's play tells the true story of Shakespeare's...

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES
GARDENS: Ranked Spanish film about unfulfilled director Ventura Pons...

VISUAL ART: Isabel Carlisle at a London show of new figurative sculpture

Bodies in question

Figurative sculpture in Britain today is the subject of this year's survey exhibition by the gallery Flowers East...



Ultra-real, ultra-theatrical and just this side of kitsch: Andrew Logan's Maggi Hambling

welded the imposing figure of an African factory worker in overalls from mild steel. He has goggles pushed up on his head...

tic of his or ours of him? More realistic, more distressing, is Eleanor Crook's small wax figure of a disembowelled man...

check. Harry hoped I'd understand that my interest in him came at an inopportune moment...



All human life is here: some of the British Figurative Art show at the Flowers East gallery in London's East End

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

COLESHAM 0171 820 5000
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tues 7.30, Wed 8.00, Sat 8.00

THEATRES

ADRIAN PHOENIX
02 483 8111
Tues 7.30, Wed 8.00, Sat 8.00

CHICAGO

THE MUSICAL
NICOLA HENSHALL
CLARET PETERS and JILL GIBBY

ALMADA AT THE ALBURY

0171 380 1700
RICHARD PHIBBS
Mon-Sat 7.45, Sun 3.00

APOLLO THEATRE

0171 494 5000
THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

THEATRES

APOLLO THEATRE 0171 494 5000
THE REAL INSPECTOR HOUND

STARBUCKS

THE FASTEST SHOW ON EARTH
0171 494 5000

ARTS WCC

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA
0171 494 5000

DANCING AT LUXURIA

0171 494 5000
NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

INTERNATIONAL THEATRE EVENT

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
0171 494 5000

THE BLUE ROOM

0171 494 5000
THE BLUE ROOM

THEATRES

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
0171 494 5000

DOCTOR DOLITTLE

0171 494 5000
DOCTOR DOLITTLE

LES MISERABLES

0171 494 5000
LES MISERABLES

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

0171 494 5000
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

0171 494 5000
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

0171 494 5000
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

GALLERIES

'Real' sculpture returns

Rich imagery of good and evil

This year is the 900th anniversary of the birth of Hildegard of Bingen, the abbess, mystic and composer who has become a cult figure in the past few years...

Worth waiting for, this man

YOU know the way it goes - you wait who knows how many years for any former members of the Velvet Underground to visit your shores...

CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY 10th THURSDAY 11th FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER

CARMEN LUNDY

298,000 READERS OF THIS SECTION ATTEND THE THEATRE AT LEAST 2/3 TIMES A YEAR...

To advertise in ENTERTAINMENTS Tel: 0171 680 6222

0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313

0171 680 6222 or fax 0171 481 9313



THEATRE

Hare's Israel monologue

ARTS

DANCE

Flamenco without fizz

Ode to thuggery retains shock value



A chorus-of-approval line: backed by a £1.75 million lottery grant to refurbish their home the members of the National Youth Theatre have every reason to feel on top of the world

New thespians start here

While Diana Rigg was putting the finishing touches to her interpretation of Phedra at the Albery Theatre last week, her daughter was treating swollen ankles with packets of frozen peas in preparation for her own first night. Rachael Sorling is playing Kate in the National Youth Theatre's spirited and moving production of Donating at Lughnasa at the Arts Theatre, just yards from the Albery. If you are unused to kicking your heels up in a wild group parody of Irish dancing you tend to get kicked — hence the bruising.

THEATRE: Britain's premier youth ensemble now enjoys state-of-the-art equipment. Heather Neill reports

manager, took me on a tour, beginning in the basement. This houses the costume store: racks of frumpy 1950s jumpers and skirts, evening gowns, uniforms, glamour and grunge face more neatly ranked shoes, down-at-heel and spiky sole, than Imelda Marcos could shake a bank roll at.

famous ex-members will also be in attendance. Probably not Helen Mirren, though. She was a voluptuous student Cleopatra in 1965 and is now busy rehearsing the part again with Alan Rickman as her Antony, at the National Theatre.

Hare's breadth from the truth

In David Hare's 1983 play Map of the World a character pores over The Times crossword, wondering what seven-letter word begins with "z" and means "the plague of the earth". When someone else suggests that the solution is "Zionism", an almighty row breaks out, in which Israel is accused of slaughtering the sympathy gained by the Holocaust by "creating a vicious, narrow-minded, militarist state".



One man and his dogged journey into dogma: David Hare stands up and is counted with Via Dolorosa

ised between the younger Ben-Gurion, with his "2,000-year yearning to go home", and Rabin's ex-colleague Shalomit Aloni, "a manic-depressive Melina Mercouri" who sees Israel — well, rather as a vicious, narrow-minded, militarist state.

Skating accident

It seems churlish to rubish John Kander and Fred Ebb's rare flirtations with disaster, when they banked their chips with several of the best musicals of the 20th century, including Chicago and Cabaret. Fair enough, but why celebrate them? This hokier tale about a mother and her estranged daughter trying to bury the hatchet when the mother decides to sell the family business — a roller skating rink — sounds as if it's been composed from the contents of Lloyd Webber's wastepaper basket.

A Clockwork Orange Newcastle

ual assault I have seen on a stage. Feelings of horror, excitement and shame are all likely to go through an onlooker's head, further complicated by blasphe of the last movement of the Choral Symphony.

Too small to fill the shoes

The public's seemingly insatiable appetite for flamenco means we get a steady stream of Spanish troupes visiting our shores and, inevitably, not all of them are worth the journey. Raíces Flamencas (Flamenco Roots) is the creation of "the world-renowned" Los Farrucos, "the internationally acclaimed flamenco Gypsy family from Seville" who promise us "the true art of flamenco".

The Art & Influence of Asia

Featuring the Janet Leach Collection & Library. Announcing a major series of auctions to be held in the morning, afternoon and evening of Wednesday 16 September, which illustrate the depth of traditional Eastern influence on today's 'Living National Treasures' and master potters.



A Vice by Shoji Hamada, c.1968, Estimate: £6,000 - £8,000

BONHAMS

ch imagery... food and... north wait... or, this m... CARMENITA

DEFINING DARWIN

A novel approach

BOOKS

BOLAN TO BOWIE

A history of glam rock

You will call his name Virgil

Peter Stothard on a Roman who was tipster, poet, prophet, priest

Few poets have suffered more than Virgil from the admiration of their successors...

Various Roman writers look devotion so far as to cut up their hero's lines, paste them down in different orders...

VIRGIL His Life and Times By Peter Levi

Peter Levi is a poet who loves Virgil with a good share of those passions that have survived so strongly since the first Augustan age...

This is a fraught and fascinating enterprise. There are particularly powerful chapters on the Georgics, Virgil's second major work...



15th-century manuscript of the fourth Georgic, a meditation on beekeeping and statecraft

Odyssey and Iliad with Greek tragedy and a host of other literary antecedents to produce a poem of imperial pride...

ops and British grenadiers, not merely the poet "such as one might meet" in a marquee at the Cheltenham Literary Festival...

the demands of the Augustan dream. In previous ages which prized such arts, this was central to his place at the peak of the classical canon...

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP SAVE £2 ON LOSING MY VIRGINITY: by Richard Branson ALSO SAVE £3 ON MARILYN MONROE A BIOGRAPHY by Barbara Learning

Virgil did not prophesy, but he powerfully cited prophecies. Levi insists that such books were the anti-Roman works of "cave-dwellers and hysterical ladies" and that Virgil, out of respect for his imperial patron Augustus, would have had nothing to do with them...

Top gun behind Darwin's discovery

Roger McDonald is a poet, novelist, screenwriter and essayist who in his native Australia is compared, not unfavourably, to his more widely read compatriot Peter Carey...

Rather like Carey's last novel Jack Maggs, whose 19th-century setting is shared by Mr Darwin's Shooter is an extended footnote to a more familiar tale...

Roy Porter on the life of John Nash, schizophrenic and genius

GENIUS and madness mingle where the mind's musings are at their most abstract or ethereal, and so it is no surprise that great musicians and mathematicians feature prominently in that company...

From childhood, Nash showed all the marks of brilliance, or at least oddity. Born in 1928 into an affluent Virginian family, he grew up a brash loner with a social IQ of about 12 but a prodigious sense of his own intellectual superiority...

Nobel Prize for God's left foot

A BEAUTIFUL MIND By Sylvia Nasar Faber, £17.99 ISBN 0 571 37794 8

equations for such situations with a flair and elegance which made his a household name among academic and business elites alike...



Nash lecturing at the University of Uppsala in 1994

schizophrenia was diagnosed. Nash became fixated on numerology, believing he could save the world by decoding the hidden meanings of numbers...

Unlike most schizophrenia cases, there was, remarkably, a happy ending. In due course, Nash was able to find for himself the ultimate supportive environment: Princeton University campus, where he gained a name for himself as The Phantom and could be as eccentric as he pleased without it showing too much...

The metal guru

While beauty editors assure readers that "nude" is the only way to wear your make-up this season, the cheeks and brows of vintage glam rockers are being rouged and powdered in preparation for yet another glitter rock revival...

Alex O'Connell GLAM! Bowie, Bolan and the Glitter Rock Revolution By Ramsey Hoskyns Faber, £9.99 ISBN 0 571 19542 3

Barney Hoskyns, pop biographer and novelist, has written a fun, skimpy history of the scene which began on the cusp of the Sixties and Seventies and ended five years later...

the Pops" and ends with a fantasy playlist of glam hits. Glam! is essentially Hoskyns's personal memoir.



20th-century boy: Lou Reed in his Freddie Burretti suit, 1972

It is a glam boy's own story from the moment he first spotted the "Hobbit"-like Marc Bolan perform Get It On on Top of the Pops to Gary Glitter's 1977 gig called A Night Out with the Boys (Could This be the Last Time?), which took place three weeks after Glitter was arrested on suspicion of harbouring child pornography...

Sadly, Hoskyns does little more than throw down these thoughts in the opening chapter before stomping through a brief history of some of glam's fluffier bores — Bolan, Bowie, Rosy Music, Sweet, Iggy Pop...

Like a New Musical Express article of just over a hundred pages, Hoskyns gives an enticing peek into a scene of which he is an expert, but fails to deliver the sort of juicy anecdotes the subject begs.

Surface but no tension

IN Paul Bailey's latest novel, Kitty is a middle-aged English eccentric. Her 1950s childhood was spent in restaurants and at the zoo. She was introduced to her father's mistresses over tea at the Ritz...

Ruth Scurr KITTY & VIRGIL By Paul Bailey Fourth Estate, £15.99 ISBN 1 85172 453 8

Kitty and Virgil fall deeply in love. They tour the southern counties, visiting Kitty's relatives and chatting about Virgil's past. Occasionally, Virgil composes one of his terrible poems. Eventually, the Roman dictatorships collapse, Virgil shoots himself in Paris, and Kitty soldiers on with a stiff upper lip...

There's nothing wrong with a superficial novel. Paul Bailey has the kind of stylistic and observational talents that made the likes of Nancy Mitford and Angus Wilson famous. All three deal expertly in caricature and the quintessential Englishness of English people...

Ian Brunskill MR DARWIN'S SHOOTER By Roger McDonald Anchor, £9.99 ISBN 186230 054 2

Syns Covington, sailor, servant, trapper of birds, and a figure altogether more obscure. Covington accompanied and assisted Darwin on the Beagle's famous voyage. But the traces of his life, as McDonald explains in an author's note, amount to "a confused birth-date, a scrappy diary, a few watercolours, and scattered mentions in Darwin's letters and diaries". Yet one of Darwin's biographers has suggested that Covington was "the unacknowledged shadow behind [Darwin's] every triumph"...

well drawn, so that Darwin's research into the natural order is set within a richly detailed social order. Covington himself is a vital, convincing creation: coarse, proud, fierce, yet always more astute than others think.

Mr Darwin's Shooter is a persuasive argument for history with a (fictional) human face. The challenge posed by Darwin's theory of evolution to the spiritual values of his day could hardly be more tellingly evoked than it is in its impact on the far from cerebral Covington. McDonald's novel may not be an accurate historical record, but it is a stirring reminder that the Beagle sailed on a voyage into the unknown, and that beliefs were once almost beyond imagination.

SEANUS FAMOU... HOW... At last the last Government has his say



BOLAN TO BOM

SEAMUS FAMOUS Heaney's new volume

BOOKS

CHRIS PATTEN Dicing with democracy

How Hitler became what he was

Too many biographies of Hitler? Gitta Sereny finds the latest may make others obsolete

When Penguin suggested to Ian Kershaw that he write a biography of Hitler, the first for 18 years, he wondered if it was justifiable. Dozens of biographies with differing agendas exist, and there are virtually numberless books on the Third Reich...



Hitler addressing the NSDAP leadership in 1928: at the table, from left to right, are Alfred Rosenberg, Walter Buch, Franz Schwarz, Hitler, George Strasser and Himmler

Hitler 1889-1936: His Rise to Power by Gitta Sereny. Allen Lane, £20 ISBN 0 713 99047 3

Hitler have become a different man with a different father? Kershaw gives more space than most of his predecessors to the facts at our disposal, but, wisely I think, does not engage in the "nature versus nurture" argument.

and Social Democracy (linked in his mind with the Jews); his contempt for Slavs and his loathing of parliament, where he frequently watched the dithered "foreigners"...

By then, thanks to Hitler's unerring political instinct, it had of course all happened and his men, doing his bidding or following his example, were part of each of these events: Hitler's failed putsch following the disastrous 1923 inflation...

Less than a year after the end of the First World War, as Germany seethed with political conflict, Hitler found his vocation. The emasculated Reichswehr discovered his talent for oratory and sent him to Munich as an instructor to inculcate the politically wavering troops with nationalist and anti-Bolshevik sentiments...

A rich harvest reaped

A man dabbles in verses and finds they are his life. Seamus Heaney once wrote, and he is our greatest living evidence of the strange force-field of poetry, the clearest proof that it need not be a dying or a small-scale art but a full and demanding and entirely sufficient occupation for a lifetime...

Michael Hofmann OPENED GROUND: Poems 1966-1996 by Seamus Heaney. Faber, £20 ISBN 0 571 19492 3

THE POETRY OF SEAMUS HEANEY: A Critical Study by Neil Corcoran. Faber, £9.99 ISBN 0 571 17747 6

Heaney is continually attentive to outside voices but never in thrall to them, as he negotiates his responsibilities to his Northern Irish Catholic constituency and his growing worldwide readership...

Christine Loh, Hong Kong Legislative Council member and chairwoman of the Citizens' Party, wishes Patten had more to say

At last the last Governor has his say

We are shaped by our experiences. We learn about the world from what happens to us. Chris Patten, a Conservative politician who lost his seat in Bath in 1992, is now better known, both at home and abroad, as the 'Last Governor of Hong Kong'...



Patten after delivering his farewell speech on June 30, 1997

never named in the book although some of the references are clearly about him. Patten presumably finds it hard to find anything generous to say about Cradock.

like the Chinese at all. We are sure on others to toe the Chinese line. He thinks the West should make a fuss about democracy and Tibet, and ignore Hong Kong, he never Chinese petulance, because it really thought very much about why he was a democrat, as he had never had to defend freedom and democracy at home. In Hong Kong, however, not only did he have to argue for the merits of democracy with the local establishment, but he also had to stand up for democratic values within the British Foreign Office and British business circles.

Advertisement for the book 'The Last English King' by Julian Rathbone. It features a black and white photograph of a man in a suit and a woman in a dress, and text describing the book as a historical bestseller.

### Challenge must be made quickly

**Regina v Newbury District Council and Another, Ex parte Chieveley Parish Council**

Before Lord Justice Hobhouse, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Judge

**Judgment July 23**  
An application for judicial review of the grant of planning permission had to be made urgently to avoid prejudice to good administration within section 2(6) of the Administration of Justice Act 1985, which did not require any finding of prejudice or hardship to the rights of third parties.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing the appeal of Chieveley Parish Council against the refusal of Mr Justice Carnwath (The Administration of Justice Act 1985, section 22, 1987) sitting as an additional judge of the Queen's Bench Division, to grant a declaration that outline planning permission granted by Newbury District Council to Newbury and District Agricultural Society for exhibition halls in an area of outstanding natural beauty was void, and allowing the cross-appeal of the district council against the finding that the outline permission was unlawful and that the council acted unlawfully in approving the reserved matters without considering traffic generation.

Mr Robin Purchas, QC and Ms Suzanne Drmsby for the parish council; Mr John Steel, QC and Mr Rabinder Singh for the district council; the agricultural society did not appear and was not represented.

**LORD JUSTICE PILL** said that article 1(1) of the Town and Country Planning General Development Order (SI 1988 No. 1513) gave a planning authority power to reserve matters when granting outline planning permission.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Carnwath that on the wording of article 1 there was no power to reserve matters of which details had been given in the outline application and therefore the reservation by the district council of siting and means of access, details of which were included in the outline application, was unlawful. Whether the outline permission should be quashed for that defect remained for further consideration.

Gross floor space could not be brought within the words "siting or design" in article 1 if a planning authority wished to limit, in the outline stage, the scale of development, it could do so by an appropriate condition.

An outline application which specified the floor area, as this one did, committed those concerned to a development on that scale, subject to minimal changes and to such adjustments as could reasonably be attributed to siting, design and external appearance. Floor space could not be treated as a reserved matter.

The district council was not obliged to conduct a further study of traffic generation nor treat it as a material consideration on considering the application for approval of reserved matters. It was the county council which had the duties and enjoyed the expertise in highway matters and the district council was entitled to accept the advice of the county council.

His Lordship said that the lapse of time between the grant of outline permission and the application for judicial review approached three years. That lapse constituted "undue delay" in making an application for judicial review within section 31(6) of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

His Lordship agreed with the approach of Lord Justice Simon Brown in *Regina v Exeter City Council, Ex parte J. L. Thomas & Co Ltd* ([1991] 1 QB 471, 484), that the need to proceed in planning cases with the greatest possible urgency was stressed.

Lord Justice Simon Brown drew attention to the absence from the legislation of any right to appeal in fact or law from a planning authority's grant of planning permission, and even where a right to challenge a ministerial decision was given, it had to be exercised within six weeks.

A reason for that approach was that a planning permission was contained in a public document which potentially conferred benefit on the land to which it related.

Important decisions could be taken by public and private bodies and individuals on the strength of it. It was important to good administration that, once granted, a permission should not readily be invalidated.

Section 31(6) of the 1981 Act recognised that there was an interest in good administration independent of hardship, or prejudice to the rights of third parties: see *Caswell v Dairry Produce Quota Tribunal for England and Wales* ([1990] 2 AC 738).

Weight should be given to that aspect of the case notwithstanding the absence of convincing evidence that the applicants for planning permission had been prejudiced by the delay.

In relation to reserved matters, bad faith or improper conduct had not been alleged. While the parish council strongly disagreed with the district council on the merits of the proposal, the merits were considered by the district council before resolving to grant a permission they were entitled to grant.

The parish council had not been prejudiced significantly. Their objection was essentially to the principle of development and its scale. They could still object to siting and means of access upon application for approval of reserved matters.

Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Hobhouse agreed. Solicitors: Berwin Leighton; Mr Stuart Tagg, Newbury.

**Clark Tokeley Ltd (t/a Spell Brook Ltd) v Oakes**

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Mummery and Sir Christopher Staughton

**Judgment July 27**

The expression "at the time of the transfer" in paragraph 17 of Schedule 13 to the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978, now embodied in section 21(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, was capable of more than one meaning: a moment of time or a period of time.

The expression was used in the context of the transfer of a trade or business or an undertaking from one person to another. A trade or business or an undertaking would usually be a going concern of some complexity giving rise to different considerations than a simple transfer of a piece of real or personal property.

The trade, business or undertaking might comprise personal and real property, incorporated property, such as goodwill and work in progress, the benefit of existing contracts and the employees themselves.

The completion of the transfer of these different elements of the trade, business or undertaking might occur at different times. Such a transfer was more in the nature of a process extending over a period of time than an event timed to take place only at a particular moment in time.

The Court of Appeal so held when dismissing an appeal by a transferee of a business, *Clark Tokeley Ltd*, from the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, upholding a decision of an industrial tribunal in favour of the applicant, *Mr Andrew Oakes*, that he had been unfairly dismissed by the transferee.

Mr Oakes had been employed by the transferor for a continuous period of more than two years; was dismissed from his employment shortly before the completion of the transfer; entered into a new contract of employment with the transferee; and was dismissed by the transferee shortly after entering his employment.

Mr Guy Pritchard for Mr Oakes; Miss Adrienne Morgan for Clark Tokeley Ltd.

last considered in *Teesside Times Ltd v Drury* ([1980] ICR 338), when each member of the court, Lord Justice Stephenson, Lord Justice Goff and Lord Justice Eveleigh, gave differing obiter opinions.

Mr Oakes was dismissed by the liquidator of his former employer's company on March 14, 1996. Between that date and March 21, 1996, when the business was bought by the transferee, the business lacked over, with only a handful of employees, including Mr Oakes, who had been asked to stay on by the receiver to provide continuity. He commenced employment with the transferee on March 21 but was dismissed on April 2, 1996.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal held, correctly in its Lordship's judgment, that the authorities did not preclude or weaken the tribunal's view that, for the purposes of paragraph 17(2), the transfer of an undertaking could properly be regarded, in an appropriate case, as a process spread over a period and that the time of the transfer could correspondingly be of some duration.

The authorities reviewed by Mr Justice Lindsay in the Employment Appeal Tribunal were the *Teesside* case and the following decisions of the Employment Appeal Tribunal: *Maer v Abefast Ltd* ([1990] ICR 234); *Justfern Ltd v Skaffe D'ingerhorpe* ([1994] ICR 286); and *A & G Truck Ltd v Bortlett* ([1994] ICR 379). Reference was also made to the Employment Appeal Tribunal decision in *Secretary of State for Employment v Cohen* ([1987] ICR 570).

The position was that there was no decision binding on the Court of Appeal, but the obiter dicta of the three Lord Justices in the *Teesside* case and the subsequent decisions of the Employment Appeal Tribunal provided valuable assistance.

Mr Oakes was dismissed by the transferor for a continuous period of more than two years; was dismissed from his employment shortly before the completion of the transfer; entered into a new contract of employment with the transferee; and was dismissed by the transferee shortly after entering his employment.

Mr Guy Pritchard for Mr Oakes; Miss Adrienne Morgan for Clark Tokeley Ltd.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that an employee who had been continuously employed for a period of not less than two years ending with the effective date of termination had the right not to be unfairly dismissed by his employer under sections 54 and 64 of the 1978 Act.

The debate in both tribunals and the Court of Appeal had focused on the words "at the time of the transfer" in paragraph 17(2) of Schedule 13 to the 1978 Act. The construction of that expression was

of central importance to the resolution of the appeal.

For the appellant it was said that the time of the transfer should not be stretched, either generally or in the circumstances of the case, to embrace antecedent negotiations for the transfer.

A transfer of an undertaking took place when the new owner "is let into possession and begins to carry on the business on his own account and at his own risk"; see *Teesside* per Lord Justice Goff at p355(i).

The plain fact was that Mr Oakes was dismissed without notice by the liquidator before the transfer. He was unemployed for a week. He was then taken on by the transferee under a new contract.

His Lordship said that there had been no error of law in the decision of the industrial tribunal. Its full findings of fact enabled the Court of Appeal to determine the appeal without re-trying the case. He also agreed with the reasoning of the Employment Appeal Tribunal on the construction of paragraph 17(2) and with its application of the law to the facts found by the industrial tribunal.

The divergent views of the members of the Court of Appeal in *Teesside* before whom the point of construction was fully argued by counsel experienced in employment law, indicated that the expression "at the time of transfer" was reasonably capable of more than one meaning.

On the one hand Lord Justice Goff favoured the narrower construction on which the appellant relied. But even though he took the narrower view, he expressly kept open the point (at p355(d)), that a gap of a day or two might not be fatal where it could be seen that the old employment, the new employment and the transfer of the business were all closely associated.

On the other hand Lord Justice Stephenson and Lord Justice Eveleigh took a broader view. Although Lord Justice Eveleigh based his judgment on the view that the period of employment of an employee in the trade or business at the time of transfer meant the period vested in him at the time of the transfer, even though he was not an employee at that time, he agreed with the approach of Lord Justice Stephenson to the words "at the time of the transfer".

Lord Justice Stephenson had said (at p353(f)):

"I can, however, go no further than to indicate my opinion that there is no one stage in the process of transferring a trade or business or undertaking which can be excluded from the time of the transfer by any hard or fact rule, but the question when a trade, business or undertaking is transferred or what is the time of its transfer, must be a question of fact or degree to be answered by industrial tribunals in the light of common sense and their knowledge of trade and industry applied to all the circumstances of the particular case."

The industrial tribunal treated the transfer as a process and concluded that the dismissal of Mr Oakes occurred in the course of that process. The true construction of paragraph 17(2) justified that approach.

There was sufficient evidence on which a reasonable tribunal would conclude that, as a matter of fact, Mr Oakes was an employee of the transferor at the time of the transfer.

Sir Christopher Staughton and Lord Justice Beldam gave concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Taylor Walton, Bristol; Kidd Rapinet, Aylesbury.

### Council not liable for abuse by teacher

**T v North Yorkshire County Council**

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Chadwick

**Judgment July 14**

When a teacher sexually abused a mentally disabled schoolboy entrusted to his care, that did not amount to the performance of his duties in an unauthorised manner. It was an independent act outside the course of employment and therefore the local authority was not vicariously liable for the offences of the teacher.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing the appeal of North Yorkshire County Council from the order made by Judge Spike in *Darlington County Council v T* on a preliminary issue, that the council was vicariously liable for the offences of the teacher. After a police investigation, the teacher was tried and convicted of seven counts of indecent assault on pupils not including the plaintiff.

Mr Nigel Batar, QC and Mr Anesh Penu for the council; Mr

Simon Hawkesworth, QC and Mr Mark Grenyer for T.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the plaintiff, T, suing by his mother, suffered from epilepsy and mental handicap and had attended a special needs school.

In May 1991 he went on a school trip to Spain and as he required nocturnal supervision it was arranged that he would share a room with the deputy headmaster, Michael Stevens. The plaintiff alleged that during the visit he was subjected to sexual assaults by the deputy headmaster which caused serious psychological injury.

An action was brought against the council alleging that as employers of the deputy headmaster, they were vicariously liable for his criminal acts. No application was made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board since the offences took place in Spain.

The judge, in reliance upon *Bracebridge Engineering v Durby* ([1990] IRLR 3), held that the deputy headmaster was effectively in loco parentis in respect of the plaintiff with a duty to care for and

supervise him. Therefore the deputy head's acts were so connected with his authorised responsibilities that they could be regarded as an improper mode of performing his duties.

In reliance upon the judgments in *Jones v Tower Boot Co Ltd* ([1997] ICR 254) and *Caledonia Motor Group Ltd v Reid* (unreported, November 7, 1996) her Lordship held that *Bracebridge* was not an authority upon which the plaintiff could rely as it was decided in the context of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 where there was a greater range of remedies available against the employer than at common law.

Mr Hawkesworth also relied on the bailment line of cases to argue that the conduct of the deputy headmaster was a pervious form of his duty of care towards the child and therefore the council was answerable for his conduct.

He relied upon *Morris v C. W. Martin and Sons Ltd* ([1966] 1 QB 710) where the plaintiff's mink coat, sent to the furrier to be cleaned, was stolen by an employee of the defendant. It was held that the defendant owed the plain-

off the duties of a bailee to take reasonable care of the coat and could not rely on an exemption from liability clause.

Her Lordship stated that following the judgments in *Heamsman v Clarity Cleaning Co Ltd* ([1987] ICR 949) and in *Makanjula v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* ([1990] Admin LR 215), the bailment cases could be seen as a category of their own or as an example of vicarious liability being imposed where an authorised act was performed fraudulently. In any event the rule in *Morris* had not been applied beyond the bailment line of cases and was not applicable to the present case.

It was difficult to visualise serious sexual misconduct being an unauthorised mode of carrying out an authorised act outside the course of employment, therefore the judge was wrong to find the council capable of being liable for the deputy headmaster's actions.

Lord Justice Thorpe agreed and Lord Justice Chadwick delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Hammond Suddards, Leeds; Jacksons, Middlesbrough.

### Time of transfer flexible

### Inappropriate applications delay hearing of appeals

Cliffe and Another v Forrester

Before Lord Justice Mummery, Lord Justice Hoffmann and Lord Justice Evans

**Judgment July 27**

Inappropriate applications to set aside the grant of leave to appeal to the Court of Appeal frustrated efforts to ensure that all appeals were heard as quickly as possible. The Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Brooke) so stated on June 29, dismissing an application by the plaintiffs, Nicholas Cliffe and Melanie Carol-Cliffe, under Order 59, rule 14(2B) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to set aside leave granted by Lord Justice Hirst and Mr Justice Hoffmann on April

24 to the defendant, Mr Timothy G. Forrester, to appeal against the decision of Judge Meeley, QC, on December 10, 1997 to award them £48,355 damages for negligent valuation.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the court would not make an order under Order 59, rule 14(2B) unless there was some exceptional reason why it should do so.

That would usually be where there was some matter of significance which the court giving leave had been unaware of.

The matters on which the plaintiff relied were merely points which would be very persuasive on the hearing of the appeal. The appropriate course would have been to see that that appeal was heard at the earliest possible opportunity.

The application to set aside leave was a misuse of the procedure under Order 59, rule 14(2B) because the practical effect was to try to accelerate the hearing of that appeal over other appeals.

## SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE

# Have THE TIMES delivered to your home or office on the day of publication and save up to 65% OFF local cover price.

Same day hand delivery is available as follows: Belgium - main cities; France - Paris (postcode 75); Luxembourg - nationwide same day delivery by post; Netherlands - main cities; Spain - most areas in Madrid and Barcelona; Sweden - most areas in Stockholm; Switzerland - most areas in Geneva, Lausanne & Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one to four days late. Please call for clarification on hand delivery areas and mail delivery rates.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	12 MONTHS	SAVINGS ON COVER PRICE	6 MONTHS	3 MONTHS	SATURDAY ONLY 1 YEAR
Belgium	(Bfr)	13698	57%	7534	3938	3329
France	(FFr)	2163	57 1/2%	1189	622	697
Luxembourg	(LFr)	9164	65%	5040	2635	2611
Netherlands	(DFl)	778	56%	428	224	188
Spain	(Pts)	75299	26%	41414	21648	17143
Sweden	(SkR)	5232	14%	2878	1504	1056
Switzerland	(Sfr)	809	49%	445	232	177
Rest of Europe	(£)	474	n/a	261	136	130

### ORDER FORM

Please enter my subscription for: H98/HS2

12 months     6 months     3 months

Monday to Saturday     Saturday only

Payment by:  Cheque (made payable to News International)

Credit Card\*:  Visa     Mastercard/Access     Amex

Card No.

Exp Date

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return order form to: News International Subscriptions Department, PO Box 479,1 Virginia Street, London, England, E1 9XU. Telephone: 00 44 171 782 6110. Fax: 00 44 171 782 6130.

## CHANGING TIMES

ADVERTISE CALL 017 481 1899

STA TRA

BEST OFFERS!!!

AMERICANA

TRACK!!!

FARESAVERS

0171 637 7833

0171 637 7833

0171 637 7833

0171 637 7833

صكوكا من الاحل

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 1989

CHECK-IN

FAX: 0171 782 7824

STATRAVEL WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL. Conditions vary on these routes... 10% OFF SELECTED AFRICA SAFARIS AND MIDDLE EASTERN TOURS...

Airline Network - the way to go! USA & CANADA AUSTRALIA & NZ REST OF THE WORLD. NEW YORK or BOSTON SPECIAL £225. 01772 727+

All we cut is the price. 0845 6071623. British Midland The Airline for Europe. Edinburg from £39

BEST OFFERS!!! GO AMERICANA FAST TRACK!!!. ANTI DREH 0171 637 7853. FLY CONCORDE FIRST BUSINESS PREMIER...

FLIGHT SEARCHERS. 01920 484007. Selected Flight Prices from...

FLIGHT TRADERS. 01476 502692. Cheap Car Hire Available ATOL 700...

FLIGHTSEEKERS. 0171 663 4425. SPECIAL OFFERS TO AUSTRALIA...

GLOBAL FLIGHTS. 0870 606 4316. ALL DESTINATIONS AVAILABLE...

JETLINE. 0171 360 1111. SPECIAL OFFERS TO AUSTRALIA...

CUBA. 0171 916 2233. USA + FAR EAST AUSTRALIA EUROPE...

USA + FAR EAST AUSTRALIA EUROPE. 0161 756 7000. LOW COST FLIGHTS...

Jetworld. 01476 404747. CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE...

benz. 0171 255 2222. NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES/BANGKOK...

FLIGHTWISE. 01476 560089. FARESAVERS. MALAGA £165...

AIRTRADERS. 0171 323 3399. TRAVEL CONSOLE AGENTS...

FLIGHTWISE. 01476 560089. FARESAVERS. MALAGA £165...

picture yourself WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS RESERVATIONS. 0171-835 2000. TRAVEL BUG. 0171-835 2111

WORLDWIDE JOURNEYS. AMERICAS NEW YORK Sept/Oct. ORLANDO with VIENNA. WORLDWIDE HOLIDAYS...

FLIGHTBOOKERS SPECIAL OFFER DOWN UNDER. Book Qantas or British Airways to Australia\* and receive FREE Flight to Europe\*

NICE, LISBON OR BERLIN FROM £119 RETURN. For details of our daily tax-inclusive return flights...

DELTA WORLDWIDE. SYDNEY £531 HONG KONG £362. PERTH £531 TOKYO £418. AUCKLAND £518 NEW YORK £214...

MAJOR USA. MAJOR TRAVEL offer great value on low cost flights to all destinations in the USA...

charter. 0171 565 6807. TOP OFF CAR HIRE. EUROPE WORLDWIDE...

FLIGHT CENTRE. 0181 669 8607. WORLDWIDE DISCOUNT FLIGHTS. ADDRESS WSA WILLOWDALE...

SEACULL TRAVELS. 0171 625 7560. HOLIDAY HOMES & VACATIONS...

OVERSEAS EXPRESS. 0171 724 2121. BEST OFFERS WORLDWIDE...

GO AMERICANA FAST TRACK!!!. ANTI DREH 0171 637 7853. FLY CONCORDE FIRST BUSINESS PREMIER...

TRAILFINDERS. MORE THAN JUST LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE. LONDON LONGHAUL TRAVEL: 0171-988 3365...

BRIDGE THE WORLD. USA/CANADA SPECIALISTS. NEW YORK £183 DENVER £274. CHICAGO £276 MONTREAL £228...

AMERICANA BEST OFFERS!!! GO AMERICANA BUSINESS CLASS SAVE OVER 50%. ACAPULCO £1290 MONTEGO BAY £1880...

GO AMERICANA FAST TRACK!!!. 0171 636 3055. FLY CONCORDE FIRST BUSINESS PREMIER...

AMERICANA VACATIONS PLC. 0171 636 8055. 0171 637 8485. 0171 637 4107. 0171 637 7853

TRAVEL INSURANCE TAX FREEZE. SAVE 13.5% INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX. CLUB DIRECT. 0800 074 4558

GOING TO TURKEY? YOU'LL FIND THE PRICE OF OUR TRAVEL INSURANCE A DELIGHT. 0800 121 007

Germany? We've made it cheaper to fly. 0181 429 2900. GERMANY TRAVEL CENTRE

USA & CANADA. TRAVEL COACH TOURS. 01803 866455. STATEVAVERS

**Bargains of the week: Capital artistic breaks; cycling safari through Donegal (bikes provided); cheap breaks in Egypt**



**PACK YOUR BAGS**  
A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

**BRITISH ISLES**

**HOLIDAY cottages** in the Crystal Premier Britain brochure are now available for renting for as little as two nights any time of the week to help those in need of a break after the shock of returning to work following the summer. For a real "busman's holiday", postal workers might enjoy a rest at the Old Post Office in the Cotswolds, which sleeps four and costs from £198 for two nights; teachers could take a break at the Old School House in Somerset (£236 for five people), and pubicans could take time out at the Malt House in Shropshire (£236 for six). Details: 0181-390 8513.

**THE IRISH** have been particularly mad about bicycles since the Tour de France started in their country this summer. Now Irish Ferries Holidays is organising a week's cycling safari through Donegal from September 19. Cross the Irish Sea with a car and the

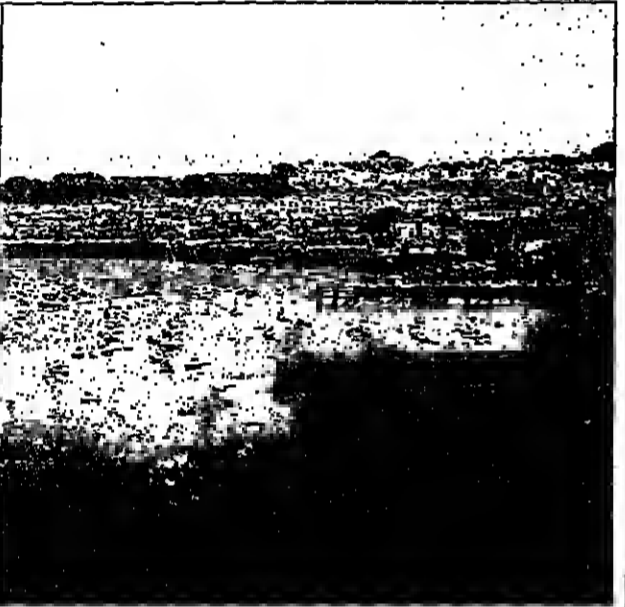
week will cost £349, based on four travelling, with B&B, bike and tour guide provided. Details: 0990 170000.

**COUNTRY** guesthouse holidays at Eskdale, Cumbria, and Whitby, North Yorkshire, are available at discounted prices from Countrywide Holidays for a week from September 19. The cost of £200 includes dinner, B&B and picnic lunches. Details: 0161-446 2226.

**SUBTROPICAL** gardens in south Devon and a walk through National Trust countryside feature in a three-night break on offer at the YHA Salcombe from September 29, which costs £55, including meals. Details: 01548-842 856.

**CHIPPENHAM** will be staging an Eddie Cochran memorial rock 'n' roll weekend from October 2 to 4 to mark the anniversary of the singer's death in a car crash near the town in 1960. His nephew and The Crickets top the bill and tickets for the event and accommodation are available from the town's tourist information centre. Details: 01249-706 333.

**FALMOUTH'S** Oyster Festival from October 9 to 11 might not match Galway's, but it is combined with a watersports festival and there is plenty of entertainment and self-catering accommodation available from Country Holidays. Prices start at £146 for a beach apartment sleeping four for three nights. Details: 01822-445 095.



The harbour at Falmouth, home to an oyster festival



Section from Van Gogh's *The Yellow House*

**Van Gogh joins Millet in Paris**

AN exhibition comparing the work of Van Gogh with that of his mentor, Jean-François Millet, opens in Paris in a week's time and travel companies are offering special trips to take in the event. *Tony Dawe writes.* Paintings by the two artists, which are being assembled from galleries and private collections throughout the world, will go on display in the Musée d'Orsay, which is housed in the beautifully refurbished Quai d'Orsay railway station. Millet was renowned for his images of epic heroism depicting peasants at work, but 40 years later his paintings influenced Van Gogh to produce nostalgic and likeable depictions of rural and peasant life. Tickets to the show will be included in packages from VFB Holidays and Eurotours. VFB is offering travel by air or rail and stays in two or three-star



One of the Van Gogh masterpieces on show (section)

hotels in Paris, from £155 for two nights' B&B. Eurostar travel and museum entry. Air packages — from the two main London and Scottish airports, plus Birmingham, Bristol, Manchester and Newcastle — will be cheaper later in the year. Eurotours is arranging a weekend Eurostar break from September 18 for £179, with two nights' B&B and exhibition tickets. VFB, 01242 240310; Eurotours, 0181-289 8899.

**EUROPE**

**RICHARD** the Lionheart and his forces were the forerunners of the squaddies who now enjoy Cyprus and you can follow in his footsteps on a ten-night Treasures of Cyprus tour with Sunvil Holidays.

The trip starts with a flight from Heathrow on October 13 and visits the island's sites and mountains from bases at Nicosia, Troodos and Paphos. The cost of £795 includes half-board accommodation, entrance fees and a guide. Details: 0181-568 4499.

**CABINS** are still available — at a discounted price — aboard the *Bolero* for a week's eastern Mediterranean cruising, starting on September 19. The holiday with Festival Cruises now costs from £535.

with return Stansted-Venice flights, full board and entertainment and takes in Greek and Turkish ports, Mykonos and Dubrovnik. Details: 0171-436 0827.

**SCUBA-DIVING**, golf and sophisticated restaurants may not have been available in Napoleon's time, but they are among today's attractions on Elba, where he spent his exile. The Italian Connection is offering a week's half-board at an 18th-century hotel for £485 until October 3 and can arrange flights. Details: 0171-486 6890.

**WANT** to get away in a hurry? Then both self-catering and half-board Airtours packages are still available tomorrow from Co-op Travelcare. Prices start at £249 for a week and the flights are from

Bristol and Stansted. Details: 0541-500 388.

**FINE** Spanish wines in abundance will be tasted on a five-day holiday to Rioja and Navarra with Arbaster & Clarke Wine Tours, starting with a British Airways flight from Heathrow on September 21. The tour costs £799, with four nights' B&B, five meals with wine and tastings. Details: 01730-893 344.

**CORFU** for a fortnight for £179 on a room-only Thomson holiday with a flight from Gatwick on September 27 is among late bargains available from Lunn Poly. Details from the company's Holiday Shops.

**CAR HIRE**, flights and a choice of three, four or seven nights' accommodation are on offer from Crystal Premier

France for autumn holidays in the Languedoc. Four nights in a villa with pool and tennis court costs from £329 this month and next, including return Gatwick-Montpellier flights and car. Details: 0181-241 5030.

**THE EURO Domino** is a new pass from Rail Europe to help you to travel the Continent cheaply. There is one for each of 25 countries, costing from £34 for three days' travel in The Netherlands to £105 in France. Passes for longer periods and first-class travel are also available. Details: 0990-848 348.

**RIDING** holidays based on an estate near Seville are on offer for a week from September 19 from Inntravel for £730, including return flights from Heathrow and half-board with drinks. Details: 01653-628 862.

**LONG HAUL**

**EGYPT'S** attempts to rebuild its tourist industry after last November's temple massacre mean that prices are lower than ever and the variety of tours extremely wide. *Tony Dawe writes.*

The Imaginative Traveller has a ten-day trip for £585, starting with a flight from Heathrow on September 27 and including as much as possible in the time available. A tour of the Pyramids, a donkey ride to the Valley of the Kings and three nights on a Nile cruise, plus most meals and an expert guide are included. Details: 0181-742 8612.

**Thomas Cook** Holidays also has a tour starting on October 19, which includes five nights on the river and two ashore in a Luxor hotel, from £659. Details: 01733-418 850.

**FARES** have come down for those flying Down Under, and Air New Zealand is boasting some of the best savings so far to the other side of the world. It is offering return flights to Auckland for £714, with a further £15 saving in November. Details: 0181-741 2399.

**BARBADOS** for a week from £489 is among autumn offers to the Caribbean from Virgin Holidays. Fly from Gatwick and stay at Silver Sands in 14 acres of gardens. Details: 01293-617 181.

**FLORIDA** fly-drive holidays are down to £199 for a fortnight with Jetset if you can leave from Gatwick by Tuesday. The company also has other packages available this month, from a variety of airports, for less than £300. Details: 01342-312 033.

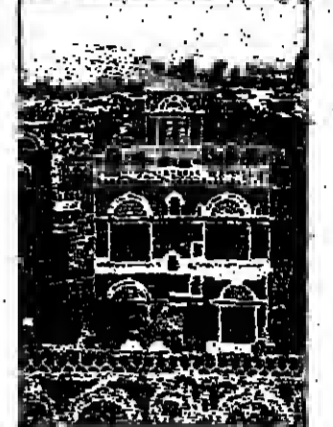
**THE DATAI** resort, among tropical trees and overlooking a sea dotted with islets, is one of the more ideal spots on the supposed "paradise isle" of Langkawi, Malaysia, and is available at an out-of-this-world saving of £444 from Airways until October 26. A room for ten days and return flights from Heathrow cost £835. Details: 0181-875 1188.

**CHINA** for ten days from £695, with a flight from Heathrow on September 27, is on offer from Bales Worldwide. The holiday includes visits to

the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and Chengde; plus accommodation and some meals. Details: 01306 885923.

**YEMEN** is not a tourist destination on most people's lips, so Explore Worldwide's 15-day tours of the country are a rarity. They take in markets and mountains, palaces, the desert and mud-brick "skyscrapers". The next departure, on October 18 and November 1, cost £1,260, and include flights, accommodation and some meals. Details: 01252 344161.

**FAR-EASTERN** flights with Lufthansa are on special offer for students and under-26s from STA Travel, but you must book by the end of the month. Bangkok, Singapore,



Sana'a in Yemen

Hong Kong and Ho Chi Minh City feature in the offer, with return fares from £364 to £468, including two nights' accommodation on arrival. Details: 0171-361 6262.

**AN ASIAN** Overland trip with Dragoman starting from Cairo on October 22 now costs £850, plus a £325 kitty for meals and extras for a ten-week journey in a rugged Mercedes-Benz through Jordan, Syria, Iran, Pakistan and India to Nepal. Details: 01728 86133.

Prices are based on two sharing, unless otherwise stated.

**WEEKEND TRAVEL**  
See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

**AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES**

**GREAT easyJet FLIGHTS OFFER**



300,000 SEATS AVAILABLE

- Winter ski: London-Geneva £51.70 return
- City breaks: Barcelona or Madrid £39 return
- UK breaks: £34 return from Scotland to London

Today The Times offers readers incredible savings on return flights to 12 European cities for under £60 with easyJet. See our guide, right, for a full list of our amazing fares. This fantastic offer is for up to two people travelling together and you can go between October 25, 1998 and March 24, 1999, except Madrid where offer flights begin on January 6. The exclusion dates will be published again with the full terms and conditions on September 29. All prices quoted are single or return fares per person and include UK and foreign airport taxes.

Look out for great savings on car hire, travel insurance and hotels. Plus you can get a reduction of £11.90 with Thameslink trains to Luton airport. See full details of all easyExtras on Tuesday September 29.

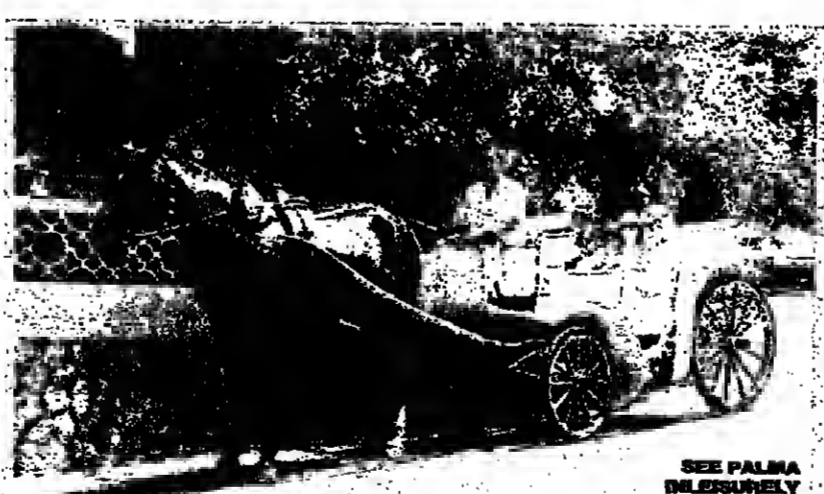
**HOW TO TAKE UP THE OFFER**

Collect 21 differently numbered tokens, 18 from The Times and three from The Sunday Times. 28 tokens in total will appear in The Times and The Sunday Times until October 3 1998. Attach your tokens to the booking validation form which will appear again on Saturday. You will need to present these when you check in for your outward journey.

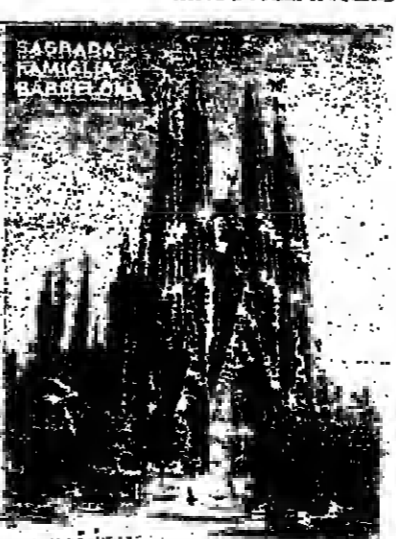


TOKEN 4

easyJet will not accept bookings or inquiries relating to this promotion before September 29. easyJet is a ticketless airline. Once your booking has been processed you will be issued with a confirmation number which is all you require, along with your booking validation form and tokens, and passport for international travel.



SEE PALMA DE MAJORCA STYLE



**BOOKING OPENS SEPTEMBER 29**

- Book by telephone or via the Internet from Tuesday September 29 until Thursday October 8, 1998.
- One set of 21 differently numbered tokens, 18 from The Times and three from The Sunday Times, entitles you to book flights for up to two people travelling together either on a single or return journey.
- Each household is allowed to book up to two journeys under this offer. Each journey requires a separate set of 21 differently numbered tokens.
- This offer is subject to availability.

DEPART FROM	DESTINATION	TIMES SINGLE FARE/ TIMES RETURN FARE (INC TAXES)
London Luton	Edinburgh	£22/£34
London Luton	Glasgow	£22/£34
London Luton	Inverness	£22/£34
London Luton	Aberdeen	£22/£34
London Luton	Belfast	£22/£34
London Luton	Madrid	£24.50/£39
London Luton	Palma de Mallorca	£24.50/£39
London Luton	Barcelona	£24.50/£39
London Luton	Geneva	£27.50/£51.70
London Luton	Athens	£27.50/£39.80*
London Luton/Liverpool	Amsterdam	£24.50/£41.50
London Luton/Liverpool	Nice	£24.50/£41.20

\*Fare from Scotland and Belfast to London Luton are also £22 single and £34 return.

**CHANGING TIMES**

سكرا من الامل



# Briton looks ahead to rest of season after fourth-round defeat at US Open

## Henman hopes for finishing flourish

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT AND ALIX RAMSAY IN NEW YORK

THERE was precious little to dissect from Tim Henman's fourth-round defeat by Mark Philippoussis in the US Open late on Tuesday night. The Briton competed well, fashioned chances to unsettle his opponent but ultimately succumbed to an Australian who, two years ago, threatened to scale the highest peaks.

The task now facing Henman is to turn aside his disappointment and finish the year with a flourish. He recognises the importance of cementing his gains of the past ten weeks. Between Wimbledon and the tournament here at Flushing Meadows, he has found the consistency that was previously missing from his game.

"I have been in contention in the last two grand slams," he said in the ashes of defeat, "and the more I put myself in contention, I think I will win. At this level, it only takes a small margin, a missed volley or a double fault."

In an era characterised by hollow talk and lame excuses, Henman was simply beaten by a better player on the day. He had a few opportunities to unsettle Philippoussis, but on this occasion, Philippoussis held firm. There was only ever going to be one outcome when he broke Henman midway through the third set.

"Too much can be made of the odd bad line-call, such as the one that Henman suffered in the fifth game of that third set. Although it cost him a game point, he still stood at deuce. It was more the two errors — a double fault and a tamely netted forehand — that unnerved him.



Philippoussis smashes during his emphatic defeat of Henman in the fourth round at Flushing Meadows. Photograph: Gary M Prior/Allsport

ters that he is shedding his boy-next-door image. Despite reaching the fourth round here, Henman's world ranking is unlikely to advance beyond No 13. His forward showing at the grand-slam tournaments this year has earned him a place — and a lucrative payday — at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich later this month. He played the event two years ago, when he reached the semi-finals, in the process accruing \$430,000 (£260,000) in prize-money. Henman also performed

well last year on the autumnal indoor circuit in Europe, reaching the semi-finals in Basle and Vienna and the quarter-finals in Stockholm. Given his gains over the past week, he must look to improve on that record. "I am desperately keen to continue this type of form and finish the year off in Hannover," he said. It may have taken the best part of a year, but at last Martina Hingis has heard the alarm bells warning of impending failure just in time to claim her place in the semi-finals. Her lead at the top of

the rankings list has gradually been whittled away to the point that by the final on Saturday, either Lindsay Davenport or Jana Novotna could overtake her, yet still she has struggled to recapture the mental edge that ensured her domination last year. The cure came in the shape of Monica Seles on Tuesday night. Seles had beaten Hingis in their two previous meetings, wiping her off the court in the semi-finals of the French Open. This match mattered. On a cold and blustery night, Hingis began to look like the

champion of old, dealing with the conditions better than her opponent and, more importantly, thinking faster than Seles could run to win 6-4, 6-4. Admittedly, Seles gave her a head-start, playing well only in fits and starts and looking sluggish and distracted by the conditions, but she was playing a different class of opponent. Hingis had switched into a higher gear than in previous rounds and began as she meant to go on, serving consistently and attacking from all areas of the court. Even when forced on to the back foot, she

invariably managed to get the ball back in play and give herself another chance. "At the beginning of the year, I was just so confident, I was going into matches not really thinking about what I was doing," Hingis said. "Tonight I was thinking again on the court and I needed that. I feel that, if I want, I can do really well again."

## ROWING

# Italians leave men's eight in their wake

FROM MIKE ROSEWELL, ROWING CORRESPONDENT IN COLOGNE

AN ILL wind blew for four Great Britain crews at the world championships yesterday morning as their medal hopes ended before the organisers called a halt to racing for five hours as a cross-headwind developed. The biggest blow came when the British heavyweight men's eight, winners of silver and bronze medals at earlier international regattas, failed to make their final.



Haining in semi-final

Britain had to finish in the first two places to qualify in a race that saw Italy, not known for their stamina, this year, storm into the lead for the first 1,000 metres. Britain were racing bobble to bobble with Romania, with many expecting Italy to fade, but although they did, in the last 500 metres, Romania went past but not the Brits.

Martin McElroy, the British coach, had no excuses. "The guys did everything they were asked, but the Italians bit into the race and wouldn't let go." The defeat of big boats always hurts and the narrow defeat of the men was preceded by a more comprehensive one for the women's eight. By the half-distance, Canada and Belarus looked comfortable qualifiers, with Britain and New Zealand trailing and fighting for third. Britain's success in this contest was little consolation.

The men's lightweight four brightened the day with an impressive first place to take them to the semi-final tomorrow. John Warnock, the stroke, kept the rate high throughout the 2,000 metres and his crew's rapid improvement since Lucerne was shown by the fact that Canada wilted.

Tm Male and Matthew Beechey finished in qualifying second place in the lightweight doubles. After leading to 1,500 metres, they cruised the last

Advertisements on the right edge of the page, including 'Five al', 'Freestyle ri', 'Motion pires land', 'Giles in po', and 'Expe'.

### FOR THE RECORD

**BASEBALL**

AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York Yankees 3 Boston 2, Chicago White Sox 12 Detroit 6, Los Angeles Angels 5 Milwaukee Brewers 3 Anaheim 0, Baltimore Orioles 2 Tampa Bay 10 Seattle 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pittsburgh 8 Milwaukee 7, Montreal 6 Atlanta 3, Philadelphia 10 New York Mets 4, Houston 13 Cincinnati 7, St Louis 6 Chicago Cubs 6, San Francisco Giants 11 Florida 10, Los Angeles Dodgers 5 (11 runs), San Francisco 5 San Diego 1.

**FOOTBALL**

Tuesday's fixtures

FA CUP: Reading 2, Luton 0, Reading 2, Reading 2, Reading 2, Reading 2.

**CRICKET**

County Championship: Lancashire 103, 300 runs; Durham 104, 104 overs.

**FIXTURES**

BASEBALL: Yankees vs Red Sox, Yankees vs Blue Jays, Yankees vs Orioles, Yankees vs Yankees.

**GOLF**

ROYAL PORTHAWL: South Wales: 1. England 1.5, 2. Scotland 1.5, 3. Ireland 1.5, 4. Scotland 1.5, 5. England 1.5.

BURNHAM AND BERROW: Women: 1. Scotland 1.5, 2. England 1.5, 3. Ireland 1.5, 4. Scotland 1.5, 5. England 1.5.

**ROWING**

COLOGNE: World Championships: Leading rowers: 1. England 1.5, 2. Scotland 1.5, 3. Ireland 1.5, 4. Scotland 1.5, 5. England 1.5.

## GOLF: AMATEUR STALWART SETS HIS SIGHTS ON INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCE RECORD

# Wolstenholme finds the answers

John Hopkins meets a nightmare opponent ready to fulfil his dreams

Gary Wolstenholme has been questioned many times about his commitment to amateur golf. A voice inside his head has usually said: "Why are you doing this? You're middle-aged. What are you playing at?"

The question has come when Wolstenholme has been competing at Southern Down Golf Club in the Duncan Putter, the first important amateur event of the year in Great Britain. "I'm standing over a five-foot downhill putt for a par and the rain is dribbling down the back of my neck," Wolstenholme said.

"My feet are wet and my hands have lost all feel because there is a cutting wind and it's cold. These are the moments when I think: What am I doing here?"



Wolstenholme: 100 caps

When he was three-down at the turn and eventually lost 4 and 3. "In a corner of the bar at Kiltworth Springs, Wolstenholme sprang from his seat and returned minutes later with a book and three typed sheets headed *Resumé of golfing achievements for Gary Wolstenholme* (current edition). The book is the English Golf Union's handbook, containing the names of every international, the number of caps and the percentage success rate.

**CRICKET**

County Championship: Lancashire 103, 300 runs; Durham 104, 104 overs.

**RUGBY UNION**

WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Aberystwyth 5, Ebbw Vale 29.

**TENNIS**

NEW YORK: US Open: Men: Singles: Fourth round: P Rastvor (USA) bt G Singson (CRO) 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-1. K Kuwata (JPN) bt A Accardi (ITA) 6-3, 6-2. B Potomkin (SWE) bt J Sjorenson (FIN) 6-4, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. G Philippoussis (GRE) bt M Seles (USA) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. G Philippoussis (GRE) bt M Seles (USA) 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

## Wind plays games on Porthcawl's fairways

# England prevail over the wind-wise Irish

THIS was not mere golf; it was, rather, masochism suffered in the name of sport. The first day of the men's home internationals at Royal Porthcawl yesterday was ravaged by the sort of wind that flips umbrellas inside out and can irreparably dent morale at the same time.

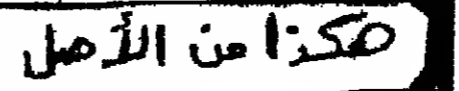
Take the Wales team, for example. Contained in its ranks were five players from the side that recently won the European youth championship in Belgium and three of them helped their country to a surprise 4-1 lead over England in the morning foursomes.

England, the defending champions, were not thought to be capable of surrendering so tamely. Neither were they and, 50mph gales and driving rain notwithstanding, they made their opponents pay for their enfeeblement by winning all ten singles to complete an 11-4 victory.

Wales, who have yet to win this series, came agonisingly close to beating the experienced Scots. Becky Brewerton, 15, and Caroline Cole, 17, were three up with five holes to play in the third foursome in the morning, but inexperience in the prerogative of youth and the Welsh were pegged back by Vikki Laing and Elaine Farquharson-Black, who holed the putt on the 18th that kept her side on level terms.

## COMMONWEALTH GAMES RESULTS

<b>BADMINTON:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>TABLE TENNIS:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>SHOOTING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>SWIMMING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.
<b>ARTS AND CRAFTS:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>BOWLING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>TABLE TENNIS:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>SHOOTING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.
<b>TABLE TENNIS:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>SHOOTING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>SWIMMING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>ARTS AND CRAFTS:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.
<b>SHOOTING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>SWIMMING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>ARTS AND CRAFTS:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.	<b>BOWLING:</b> Men's team: Pool A: Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0, Canada 4 Northern Ireland 0.



Freestyle rivalry could propel Australia towards record haul

Five alive to medal possibilities

FROM CRAIG LORD IN KUALA LUMPUR

LET the Mind Games begin. The psychological side-effects of having the greatest freestyle squad in history may well determine whether Australia can live up to its ambition of exceeding the 24 Commonwealth titles that they won in 1994 — and leave just eight for the rest.

Not since Australia's golden era in the pool, between 1956-1964 — when Rose, Konrads, Henricks, Devitt and Windle then claimed every



Olympic freestyle title apart from the two won by Don Schollander and set 22 world records — has there been such a concentration of freestyle talent from one nation at the same time.

The present famous five were on display yesterday at the helm of a fearsome Australian aquatic armoury. Kieren Perkins, 25, Daniel Kowalski, 23, Michael Klim, 21, Grant Hackett, 18, and Ian Thorpe, just 15, already account for two Olympic and ten world titles, with 11 world records set along the way. More may come their way from Saturday onwards.

Perkins, the most accomplished of the five, was absent from the world championships in January, when the pretenders made hay: Klim, Thorpe, the youngest swimming world champion, and Hackett kept the world at bay in the three freestyle races above 200 metres. Kowalski was runner-up to Perkins in the 1,500 metres at the Olympic Games and to Hackett in January.

The five favourites to win all freestyle races from 50 to 1,500 metres here, are present at the same event for the first time — and the tensions are starting to surface.

Hackett had complained of still feeling low after a bout of flu several weeks ago. The experienced Perkins was



Klim has been tipped by Tuuretski, his coach, to establish a new world record in winning the gold medal in the individual 200 metres event

having none of it. Asked whether this was the start of the mind games between king and pretender, the Olympic champion and world-record holder replied: "I have no doubt about that whatsoever."

break Perkins now appears to be in a quandary, stuck between what he was and what he is. He talks of "enjoying himself" in swimming these days, then changes gear: "I want to race fast and will race fast."

some things I keep secret from my coach, my wife, my parents," he said. Hackett's secret is only slightly more public. He has written "what medal I want and the time I want to win it in ... on the back of the toilet door at home" in the aptly

break the world record held since 1992 by his former team from Russia and tips Klim for the individual 200m record. Of team tensions, Klim said: "We have that comfort between us. The rivalry only touches us when we hit the water."

and a baby face smiles back at you. A little shyness, a lot of sense. Thorpe has a head for swimming and a Bondi-beach surfer's body to match: 6ft 5in, size 44 chest and 15 stone of muscle and puppy fat, held up by those feet that require shoes bought by mail order from the United States and which propel him through the water like an onboard motor.

Demotion inspires England

FROM RICHARD EATON

ENGLAND could benefit from the seedings which unexpectedly placed them below New Zealand in both the men's and women's team event.

They had been in a "stroping mood" before their opening matches yesterday, according to Karen Chapman, the England coach, and there was a hint of this in performances in which the women, seeded No 2, defeated Jamaica 5-0 and the men, seeded No 3, beat Wales by the same score.

Colin Jackson, who won the 110 metres hurdles at the 1990 and 1994 Commonwealth Games, has withdrawn from the event in Kuala Lumpur to concentrate on the World Cup. The Great Britain team has lost its first-choice athlete in six of the 18 individual men's events.

England decided against an official protest, however, when they saw how favourable the draws have been to them and there was a further curious twist of fortune when they saw the Welsh line-up.

John Leung was absent, having sustained a knee ligament injury when he fell in the car park shortly before the match. The driver, apparently, refused to park at the front door and Leung slipped while running in torrential rain. "We've made a protest," said Chris Rees, the Welsh coach. "It won't help us, but at least no one else will have to go running about in a tropical storm."

Giles missed in poor draw

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE England men's hockey team began their campaign in Kuala Lumpur yesterday with a disappointing 1-1 draw.

Canada, who England had defeated 2-1 in the recent World Cup, hung on for a point under increasing pressure in the closing minutes. If ever England missed their specialist Calum Giles this was the day — three consecutive penalty corners came to nothing.

England started the second half in much more determined mood and two short corners were squandered as England began a long spell of dominance. Chances fell to both Head and Little but on each occasion the Canada goalkeeper did well to save.

In an earlier pool B match Pakistan beat Kenya 5-4 and in pool A Australia beat India 5-2.

Cullen's lob settles nerves

FROM CATHY HARRIS

HOCKEY's debut at the Commonwealth Games may have been delayed by an electric storm and a torrential downpour but it wasn't enough to prevent England from making the perfect start to their campaign when Tina Cullen scored the only goal of their match against New Zealand.

Cullen's sixteenth minute lob over the goalkeeper, after she was sent clear by Mandy Nicholson, who had broken from the midfield, restored some much needed confidence to the squad following their 2-1 defeat by the Kiwis at the World Cup finals in May. More importantly, it steered them safely over the first hurdle against opponents who, along with South Africa, pose the biggest threat in their group.

Cullen and Nicholson proved a handful for the All Blacks while Karen Brown, the England captain, and Carolyn Reid, the goalkeeper, were outstanding.

Maggie Souyave, team coach, said: "We played well but there are still areas we can improve on. Our match against South Africa on Saturday is going to be very interesting."

Expectations precede Nicol

BY COLIN McQUILLAN

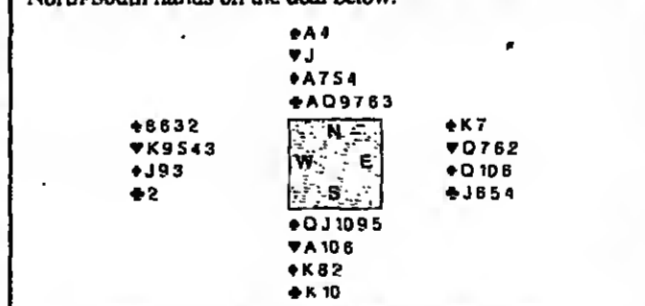
IT IS unlikely that Scotland has ever gone into a Commonwealth Games more certain of a medal than the one Peter Nicol is expected to win in Kuala Lumpur. As the world No 1 and British Open champion, the 25-year-old left-hander is top seed for the men's singles that start the first Commonwealth Games squash competition today.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Table with columns for TODAY, TOMORROW, and GAMES OPENING CEREMONY, listing various sports events and their times.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement by Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent.

In the bridge column on August 3, you were shown just the North-South hands on the deal below.



Contract: Three No-Trumps by South. Lead: four of hearts.

1) How should you play when West leads the four of hearts and East covers dummy's jack with the queen? 2) What is the best North-South contract (rubber bridge)?

Only a Bomoh can save cricket from the weather

Rob Hughes takes shelter as rain stops play on the game's debut

CRICKET made its inaugural splash at the 16th Commonwealth Games yesterday, and it came and went rather like the expensive monorail that the city of Kuala Lumpur had hoped to complete in time for the biggest event in its history. It was paved with good intentions, but not going anywhere.

There are stumps in the ground, concrete stumps, where the monorail was intended to go until the money ran out. And stumps were drawn early yesterday when torrential rain, by which we are learning to set our clocks in the afternoon, finished the match at the Victoria Institution ground. Scotland were the equals, at least in the point shared for an incomplete encounter, with Pakistan.

Can you believe it? Neither could most of the people there. Pakistan had scored 201 for five, striking at more than eight an over for the last ten overs. Scotland had struggled to 35 for three in the 17.2 overs before the deluge. At this rate, four games and four interventions from the heavens, the Scots could reach the semi-finals.

Small wonder that the Malaysians have considered calling in a Bomoh, a geomancer whose art, some say a science, has the same connotations as the witch doctor in Africa.

He can cure the elements, but his work would have been insufficient for the Canadian cricketers who, on a hot and steamy morning, with the ball doing all manner of things through the air, were dismissed for 60 runs. The top scorer was a chap called Sundries, with 25. And it took the Australians, taking the game very seriously, just 13.5 overs and one lost wicket to knock off the game.

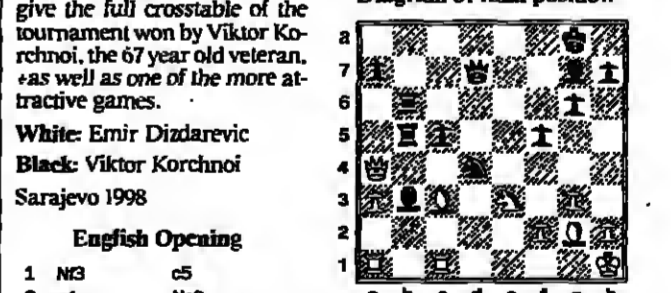
The game, the confrontation that everybody had been waiting to see was that between India and Antigua. Sachin Tendulkar v Curtly Ambrose, the world's greatest batsman against one of its greatest bowlers. Antigua had scored 164 for nine — ironically, Ambrose losing his wicket to the bowling of Tendulkar

KEENE on CHESS advertisement by Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent.

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Sarajevo. It is encouraging to see that chess is returning to the war torn city of Sarajevo. Today I give the full cross-table of the tournament won by Viktor Korchnoi, the 67 year old veteran, as well as one of the more attractive games.

White: Emir Dizdarevic Black: Viktor Korchnoi Sarajevo 1998



White: Emir Dizdarevic Black: Viktor Korchnoi Sarajevo 1998

English Opening 1 Nf3 c5 2 c4 Nc6 3 d3 e5 4 Nc3 g6 5 Bg2 Bg7 6 Bg2 d6 7 O-O f5 8 Rb1 Nf7 9 a3 O-O 10 Nc1 Bc6 11 Nd5 e4 12 Nf4 Bf7 13 d3 d5 14 Nc2 exd3 15 exd3 Qf7 16 Na3 dxc4 17 dxc4 Rf8 18 Nf6 Rf6 19 Bb2 Nd4 20 d4 b6 21 Rf1 Ne5 22 bxc5 bxc5 23 Nc2 Nd6 24 Ba1 Nc4 25 Nc3 Nc6 26 Nc5 Rf6 27 Qd3 Re8 28 Rf1 Rb8 29 Qe6 Qe7

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene. White to play. This position is from the game Young - Watts, Major Open, Torquay 1998. White has a useful pawn front on the kingside. How did he make maximum use of this? Solution on page 50

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard. VIRGULE a. A slash b. A ruler c. A heraldic red man. WURRA a. A Tigger b. Alas c. An Aboriginal. SHIFTA a. A revealing smock b. A bandit c. A confidence trick. ZURNA a. A tapioca stew b. A semi-precious stone c. A bagpipe. Answers on page 50

ans leave n's eight their wake

سبتمبر 10 1998

THE TIMES THURSDAY  
Crowds  
as We  
the star

SOMETIMES  
IT'S EASIER  
TO TALK  
TO SOMEONE  
YOU  
DON'T LIKE.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EDWARD BYMES



A REGISTERED CHARITY

If you tell your  
girlfriend  
will she think  
less of you?

When you have a problem, it's the most natural thing in the world to want to talk it through with someone.

Sometimes, though, this creates another problem: who's the best person to confide in?

An obvious choice would be a close friend. But let's face it, we don't always choose our friends for their amazing powers of tact, diplomacy and discretion. Tell one person, and you may end up telling the world.

You may be lucky enough to be able to talk to someone in your family. Then again, you may be one of the large number of people who find talking to your nearest and dearest agonisingly embarrassing.

A girlfriend or boyfriend? If you can, great. But sometimes we don't want to expose our weaknesses to those who fancy us.

And sometimes your relationship is the very problem you want to discuss.

That's where The Samaritans can be useful. We're more discreet than your best mate, we'll listen as carefully as your girlfriend or boyfriend, and we're as sympathetic as your family. We're also non-judgemental, unshockable, and extremely experienced.

Our national number is **0345 90 90 90**, and you can e-mail us on [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org) or visit our homepage at [www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org). We're available 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

And you don't have to be climbing up the walls before you call us – any kind of problem, big or small, is a good enough reason to pick up the phone.

Call now. You'll find we're remarkably easy to talk to.

**The Samaritans**  
We'll go through it with you.

Rain shows no  
for Dickie's fan  
Well and  
Bell deny  
Middlesex  
We  
SUN

سكزا من الاصل



CRICKET

Crowds stay away as Wells plays the starring role

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

GRACE ROAD (first day of four, Essex won the toss): Leicestershire have scored 301 for six wickets against Essex

IT WAS NOT difficult to discern which of these teams is at the top of the Britannic Assurance county championship...

Wells is playing much the best cricket of his career when the wrong side of 30, which at least explains partially why he remains unrecognized internationally...

On the field, then, all was as it should be for a side two wins away from a second four-day title in three years...

Rain shows no mercy for Dickie's farewell

DICKIE BIRD has suffered some abuse over the years when cricket matches have been held up by rain and bad light...

The rain relented just long enough for him to take the field through a guard of honour formed by the players of both sides...

There were none of the tears that marked his farewell Test against India at Lord's two years ago...

attendance was pitiful, no more than a few hundred diehards watching the prospective champions start their last home game.

It was the sort of squally day that makes Grace Road, for all its improvements, an uninviting place, but that alone cannot forgive the apathy.

They were able to put out a full-strength attack, Ashley Cowan playing his first championship game for two months...

The first shower of the day fell in the sixth over, but the

umpires decided to play through it. Darren Maddy, as if distracted, pushed diffidently at the next ball and was caught behind.

It took Iain Sutcliffe ten overs to score a run, in the course of which he received a curious reprieve after apparently starting to "walk" for a catch at short-leg.

Ben Smith has had an admirable summer, averaging 60, and yesterday he signed a new three-year contract.

Wells went to his century, in three hours, with a straight six off Peter Such. It was symbolic of an innings that had sometimes infuriated Essex with its stand-and-deliver audacity...

Two years ago, when Leicestershire last won the championship, Wells made a habit of considering 100 to be simply a staging post for something more substantial.

After a downpour had taken 70 minutes out of the day, Wells retreated into his shell, making only 19 of the 72 runs scored in the remaining 90 minutes.

Phil Simmons, whose average has only recently crept into double-figures, completed his third half-century in four innings before Imani struck twice in quick succession.



Brown, of Surrey, pulls to the boundary during his innings of 51 against Durham at the Riverside yesterday

Surrey get back on title track

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four, Surrey won toss): Durham with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 201 runs behind Surrey

AFTER losing to Yorkshire at Headingley last week, Surrey returned to the north with determination to recover in the Britannic Assurance county championship.

While they dominated a depleted Durham bowling attack only spasmodically, a partnership of 95 for the seventh wicket between Adam Hollioake and Martin Bicknell eased them towards a total of 323 and three batting bonus points.

By RICHARD HOBSON

Boon, must feel disappointed at allowing Surrey to pass 250. They gave away 38 runs in no-balls and wides alone.

The signs were ominous when he took three steps down the pitch to drive Saggers straight and then hit Wood over mid-on for successive fours to complete a half-century in just 54 minutes.

Stewart and Shahid had previously fallen to catches by Boon at second slip as the drove expansively.

Surrey were 181 for six when Wood hit Batty's middle stump, but again, Durham failed to capitalise.

The elder Hollioake passed 50 for the fourth time in 20 innings this season and appeared untroubled until on 67 he presented Wood with a fourth wicket as he attempted to guide the ball towards third man.

Russell and Ball deny Middlesex

By JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (first day of four, Middlesex won the toss): Gloucestershire have scored 232 for nine wickets against Middlesex

NOT for the first time this summer, the Gloucestershire middle order, with Jack Russell and Martyn Ball to the fore, played the leading part in edging them towards respectability.

At the end of a day punctuated by a number of unsheduled exits and reappearances, Gloucestershire could be said to be just about holding their own.

Enter the inevitable Russell, at the double. Standing a couple of yards down the pitch to the quicker bowling, he dealt faithfully, if unexcitingly, with everything.

Hewitt re-entered the fray shortly before the close, removing the obtuse Russell and Lewis in the same over and enjoying the sensation of taking three wickets in ten balls for no runs.

Weary Glamorgan surrender tamely

CARDIFF (first day of four, Derbyshire won toss): Glamorgan have scored 114 against Derbyshire

WEAK Glamorgan batting exaggerated the disadvantage of losing what was an important rather than possibly decisive loss at Sophia Gardens, where they were bowled out for 114, their lowest score this season.

Bating conditions eased in bright evening sunshine, but it was still an indictment of what preceded it that Glamorgan's highest stand was the 23 added by Steve Watkins and Owen Parkin for their last wicket.

Such a strong westerly blew that the umpires dispensed with the balls during the third over, during which Dominic

Lazy cricket puts Sussex in control

NORTHAMPTON (Northamptonshire won toss, first day of four): Northamptonshire, with six first-innings wickets in hand, have scored 102 runs against Sussex

AT LAST, Sussex are turning heads for all the right reasons (Thursay Petropoulos writes). With three victories in their past four Britannic Assurance county championship matches, they are putting together an impressive end-of-season run.

In the 38 overs that were possible in a blustery conditions, Wantage Road yesterday, Northamptonshire contrived to lose six wickets for 102 runs. Sussex were helped, it has to be said, by some lazy cricket from Northamptonshire, who had won the toss and elected to bat first

Jubilant Lathwell ends barren run

CANTERBURY (first day of four, Somerset won toss): Somerset have scored 233 for six wickets against Kent

BOTH these sides, who are ninth and tenth in the county championship respectively, are playing for the dubious honour of a place in next season's one-day Super Cup, a prize for a finish in the top eight.

His relief and joy at scoring his first first-class hundred for two seasons, when he drove Patel to the extra-cover boundary, were quite apparent to anyone brave or foolish enough to endure the blustery and intermittently rainy conditions.

No sooner had the Somerset

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes Britannic Assurance county championship, Durham v Surrey, Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Kent v Somerset, Leicestershire v Essex, Glamorgan v Derbyshire.

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Kent v Somerset, Leicestershire v Essex, Glamorgan v Derbyshire.

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Kent v Somerset, Leicestershire v Essex, Glamorgan v Derbyshire.

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Kent v Somerset, Leicestershire v Essex, Glamorgan v Derbyshire.

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Kent v Somerset, Leicestershire v Essex, Glamorgan v Derbyshire.

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes Middlesex v Gloucestershire, Kent v Somerset, Leicestershire v Essex, Glamorgan v Derbyshire.

Bribery inquiry calls for Test ban

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TIM MAY, the former Australia off spinner, has called for the International Cricket Council to investigate match-fixing claims after Wasim Akram, the Lancashire captain, was implicated by a Pakistani Cricket Board committee inquiry.

Wasim, with Salim Malik and Ijaz Ahmed, his Pakistan international team-mates, has been accused in an interim report that recommends that the three players should be banned from playing in Tests until further investigations are concluded.

Wasim has led Lancashire to two trophies this season already, with a third - the Britannic Assurance county championship - very much on the cards.

May, with Shane Warne and Mark Waugh, his Australia team-mates, first made allegations of bribery against Salim in 1994. "There's a genuine sense of relief that perhaps people are becoming more aware of a problem," May said.

"Before the finding, there wasn't evidence to suggest it, but now it seems there is the evidence to take this thing further. I don't know what the constitution of the ICC is, but, apparently, they couldn't do anything about it in 1994 because they didn't have the jurisdiction."

"It's a matter that affects cricket globally and the ICC is the global governing body - they should have the jurisdiction to deal with accusations like these."

"It's disappointing that match-fixing may well be part of the game of cricket and you would hope that every stone would be turned to ensure it is removed from the game."

The report by the three-member committee said that additional questioning of other Pakistani players - including Mushtaq Ahmed, of Somerset, Waqar Younis, of Glamorgan, and Saqlain Mushtaq, of Glamorgan - would be "necessary and imperative".

Clive Dean, the Derbyshire left-arm swing bowler, has been awarded a new three-year contract. Dean, 22, has taken 65 wickets for the county this summer.

Richardson is crowned champion

By JACK BAILEY

Richardson is crowned champion

Richardson is crowned champion

Richardson is crowned champion

Richardson is crowned champion

Richardson is crowned champion

Richardson is crowned champion

Richardson is crowned champion



Lathwell: 106 against Kent



Wells: 140 not out







**SWIMMING 47**

**Australians threaten to scoop the pool in Kuala Lumpur**

# SPORT

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 10 1998

**CRICKET 49**

**Wells digs deep to maintain Leicestershire's bid**



Satellite television company and chief executive seek to placate supporters

## Edwards and BSkyB offer United front

By MATT DICKINSON

MARTIN EDWARDS, red-eyed after barely an hour's sleep between negotiations over the sale of Manchester United, yesterday summoned the energy to launch a counter offensive to accusations that he had betrayed the club and its supporters.

The United chief executive is used to dealing with angry fans, and he faced demonstrations when he floated the club on the Stock Exchange. He could have walked away from the aggravation with millions in his pocket, but, as then, he insisted yesterday that he would brace himself against the storm and see the revolution through.

"I don't think I have ever been that popular with the fans," he said. "At times it saddens me but you just have to take it. If you look back at Manchester United, when I took over it was valued at £2 million. Today it is £623 million. If you look at the stadium when I took over, look at the team in 1980 when I became chairman, and look at the flotation and the success of that, considering all the things I have achieved, I don't think there are many pats on the back for it."

"All I say to people now is 'before you string me up, give things a chance'. People wanted to string me up at the time of the flotation and it went well. Now, I am being castigated for this. I believe it is in the best interests. I have been a director for 23 years, my family have been involved for more than 40. I am not about to do anything that destroys the health and tradition of this club. If I do then I deserve to be strung up. But give me a chance first. Let it run and then judge me."

Those who are impatient and expect immediate transformation may be disappointed. Ron-

aldo and Zinedine Zidane will not be following Rupert Murdoch through the Old Trafford foyer this week, despite Edwards' statement that the new owners "are an £8 billion company and that gives us the kind of money we have never had". The club has not stuck so rigidly to its pay-scale just to destroy it in the time it takes to sign one cheque.

Change over the next couple of seasons is likely to be gradual.

**BOOTH'S PROMISE TO SUPPORTERS**

- In response to the charge that ownership of Manchester United by BSkyB could lead to drastic changes in the way the club is run, Mark Booth, the company's chief executive officer, made these pledges to supporters:
- Change over the next couple of seasons will be gradual
- The current football board will remain largely intact
- There are no plans to move the ground
- The new owners will not interfere with team selection
- The name of the club will not change
- There will be no increase in ticket prices
- The club's traditions will be upheld

al, with the present football club board remaining largely intact. BSkyB — whose biggest shareholder is News International, owners of *The Times* — insist that is what it wants. "We are not going to move the ground, pick the team, change the name, hike the ticket prices, or change the club in any way that is not consistent with its traditions," Mark Booth,

chief executive officer of BSkyB, said in response to stories that Murdoch's control of the LA Dodgers baseball team had seen drastic changes to the playing staff and even the club colours.

It may not spare Edwards the wrath of supporters in the immediate future, but he insisted yesterday that his responsibility to the shareholders, as well as the fans, meant that he had no choice but to recommend the takeover.

"I know I will be vilified but there are business aspects to consider," he said. "If I had rejected it, they could simply have come in with a hostile bid. If I had turned down the offer and the company had not reached the share price — 240p — within two years, we could have been sued."

"If I woke up suddenly one morning and found out Sky had bought Liverpool or Arsenal, as a Manchester United fan that would have worried me. It would have given them that extra competitive edge."

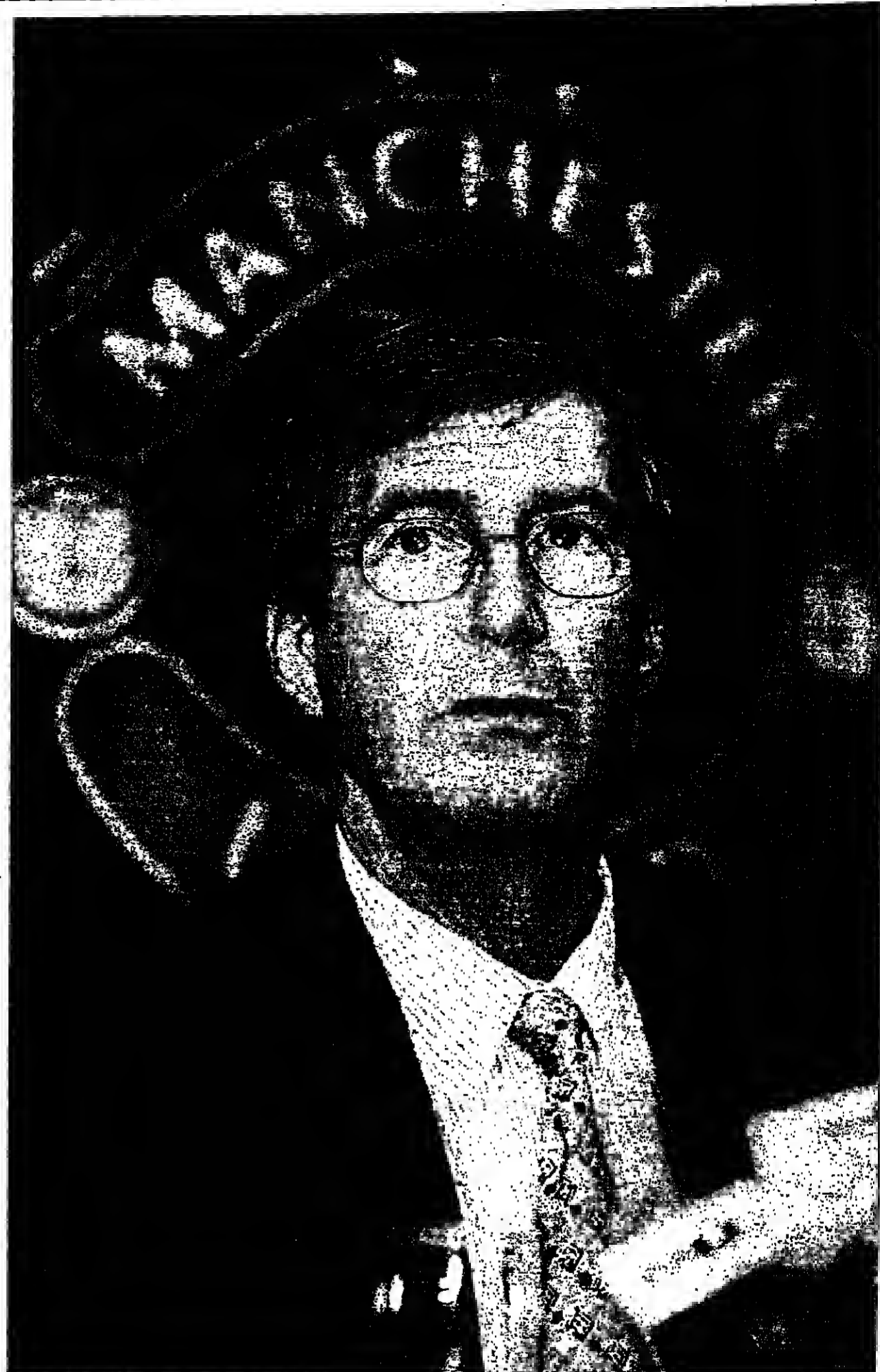
Instead, Edwards believes United fans will appreciate that they are, once more, setting the trend in English football. With plans to expand the capacity of Old Trafford to 67,400 submitted last week, the supporters have a greater chance than ever to vote with their feet.

The transfer activity that there was in the North West yesterday centered on Merseyside where Everton are close to securing the services of Ibrahim Bakayoko, the Ivory Coast forward.

Everton have agreed a fee in the region of £4.5 million with Montpellier for Bakayoko, but the transfer could be delayed for up to three weeks while Everton apply for a work permit.

Walter Smith, the Everton manager, has spent the last few weeks trying to bring in new players to increase his options in the forward line. Everton scored their first goals of the season — both by Duncan Ferguson — in the 2-0 win away to Nottingham Forest, on Tuesday, but Smith is still unhappy with the strength of his squad.

He was hoping to persuade Igor Protti to join on loan from Lazio for the rest of the season, but the player changed his mind at the last minute. That



Edwards, the United chief executive, yesterday dismissed suggestions that he has let down the club's supporters

left Smith to step up his attempts to sign Bakayoko, 21, who had a trial at Arsenal last season. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, offered Bakayoko a contract, but he was worried about lack of first-team chances at Highbury.

The signing of Bakayoko, will increase speculation that Smith is prepared to sell Ferguson. Middlesbrough are believed to be interested in taking him to the Riverside Stadium, possibly for £10 million, but Smith said: "I am not ac-

tively seeking to sell Duncan. I don't want him to go because my priority at the moment is to bring in strikers who can play alongside him. That would only change if someone offered us a hefty transfer fee for him."

## Atkinson wooed by South Africa

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

RON ATKINSON, one of English football's elder statesmen and most flamboyant characters, is considering an exotic change of scenery in the twilight of his managerial career. He will travel to Johannesburg tomorrow to discuss taking over as head coach of the South Africa national side.

If he is offered and accepts the job, he will be pitched straight into a qualifying campaign for the African Nations' Cup finals. Although it may not fit his glamorous image, he will lead South Africa in their group four fixtures — depending on the preliminary round results — against Angola or Benin, Equatorial Guinea or Gabon, and Lesotho or Mauritius.

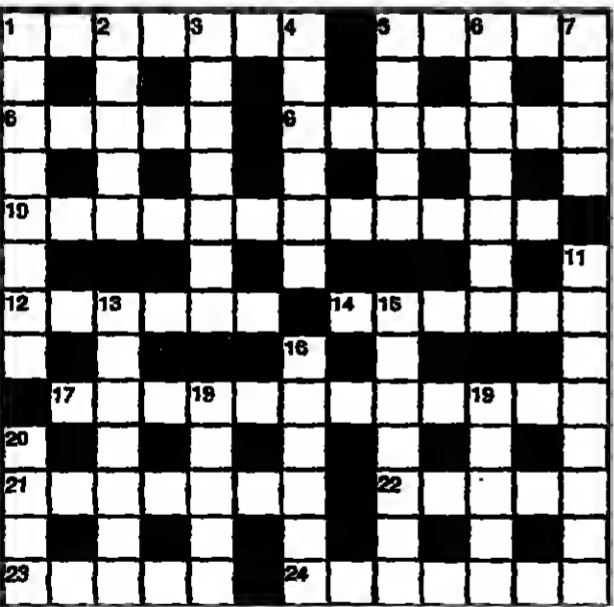
"I've already had talks with officials from the South African FA and intend to meet them to discuss things further," Atkinson said yesterday. "Who knows if I will be the new coach? At least the talks have progressed to the stage where a meeting would be worthwhile."

South Africa are looking to obtain a higher profile in world football — in much the same way as Australia used Terry Venables — and Atkinson, 59, who left Sheffield Wednesday in the summer, appears to fit the bill. Renowned for his cigars-and-champagne lifestyle, he would undoubtedly attract attention even in the outposts of Gabon or Lesotho.

"We're looking for someone with a bit of charisma," an observer of South African football said yesterday. "After a disappointing World Cup finals, we have to get our team back in the limelight." Philippe Troussier, the Frenchman, coached the team in France, where they managed two draws, against Denmark and Saudi Arabia. Troussier was dismissed soon after.

John Gregory, the Aston Villa manager, is attempting to strengthen his squad, even after the signing of Paul Merson, for £6.75 million, from Middlesbrough. Gregory's latest target is Fredrik Ljungberg, the midfield player, who plays for Halmstad and who made an impressive contribution in Sweden's 2-1 victory against England on Saturday. Emile Heskey, the England under-21 and Leicester City striker, is to sign a new one-year contract, ending speculation that he would move to Villa.

**TIMES TWO CROSSWORD**



**No 1507**

- ACROSS**
- 1 Place of activity, danger (3,4)
  - 5 Resisting sunset ran into its Bay (*Browning*) (5)
  - 8 Bird-dung fertiliser (5)
  - 9 Mortification (7)
  - 10 Fruit: Durrell Cyprus book (6,6)
  - 12 Dull-witted; blunt (6)
  - 14 Manage with what one has (4,2)
  - 17 Way of ruinous indulgence (*Shak.*) (8,4)
  - 21 Rope; artist (7)
  - 22 Fairy-tale-writing brothers (5)
  - 23 Swagger: strengthening bar (5)
  - 24 Squirting implement (7)
- DOWN**
- 1 Intellectual (8)
  - 2 Stretch of ground; pamphlet (5)
  - 3 Declare (leg faith) (7)
  - 4 Equipment: get to grips with (6)
  - 5 Amulet; alture (5)
  - 6 Send mad (7)
  - 7 Defined area (4)
  - 11 Geniality (8)
  - 13 Asian primate, it's rare (*anag.*) (7)
  - 15 One getting own back (7)
  - 16 William —, designer: type of dancer (6)
  - 18 Sacred choral piece (5)
  - 19 Of birds (5)
  - 20 (Musical) work (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 1506**  
**ACROSS:** 1 Sprout 5 Become 8 Bolt 9 Imminent  
 10 Despair 11 Pulse 15 See the world 16 Savoy 18 Pensive  
 21 Inchoate 22 Earl 23 Slalom 24 Shekel  
**DOWN:** 2 Prowess 3 On tap 4 Twilight 5 Bump  
 6 Conquer 7 Minus 12 Tweezers 14 Epochal 15 Diverse  
 17 Annual 19 Swede 20 Calm

**THE TIMES BOOKSHOP**

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE  
 The Times Two Crosswords Book 1 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 2 (50p), The Times Junior Crosswords Book 1 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 3 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 4 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 5 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 6 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 7 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 8 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 9 (50p), The Times Crosswords Book 10 (50p).  
 To order simply call 0144 479 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque, please give a bank account number and send to: The Times Bookshop, PO Box 248, Falmouth, TR11 2LN. Delivery is 10-14 days and subject to availability.

## Schumacher to leave Jordan

By KEVIN EASON

BERNIE ECCLESTONE has personally intervened to solve the acrimonious dispute between Eddie Jordan and his driver, Ralf Schumacher. Schumacher was yesterday released from his contract with the Jordan team to join Williams at the end of the season after Ecclestone, the man who controls Formula One, "brokered" a deal between both sides. No details were released but it is thought Ecclestone was prepared to finance the cost of Jordan buying a new driver to replace Schumacher.

That replacement could be Juan Pablo Montoya, who would swap from Williams where he is a test driver. Montoya has shown enough promise to be tipped to come into Formula One next season and would be a welcome recruit alongside the experience of Damon Hill, the 1996 world champion.

Schumacher, 23, was so determined to leave Jordan to join the nine-times world championship-winning Williams team that he issued High Court writs last week to get his wish, Eddie Jordan had wanted to keep Schumacher earlier this season but became increasingly disillusioned by the German's bitter attitude, fuelled by his elder brother, Michael. The final straw came almost two weeks ago at the Belgian Grand Prix

when what should have been Jordan's finest hour was marred by Michael Schumacher.

Just as champagne celebrations started for their team's first grand prix victory, the Ferrari driver marched into the Jordan motorhome demanding to know why his brother had not been allowed to overtake Damon Hill to win. Eddie Jordan had instructed Ralf not to attempt getting past Hill during the closing laps of the race in case he jeopardised the chance of the team's first victory in conditions so wet that any over taking move was precarious. Ralf Schumacher never made any attempt to disguise his displeasure at having to settle for second after the race and the incident with his elder brother only served to sour relations with Jordan further.

Jordan is especially bitter because he not only gave Ralf his break into Formula One, but also his brother Michael, who promptly departed for Benetton after just one race in a similarly unpleasant legal wrangle.

However, Schumacher is a perfect recruit for Williams, who have an engine supply deal with BMW starting in 2000 and will have wanted a German in the team, which made keeping such major players happy an imperative for Ecclestone.

## Ash's departure adds to turmoil

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE turbulence within the English game claimed another victim yesterday when Doug Ash, chief executive of the English Rugby Partnership (ERP) and English First-Division Rugby (EFDR), resigned after little more than seven months. He is the second to leave the position created last year: his predecessor, Kim Dethayes, did not last much longer.

It is no coincidence that the professional game loses executive personnel at such a rate of knots. There is such disunity within English ranks, in particular, that individuals such as Ash — who chaired the launch of the second season of the Allied Dunbar Premiership only 11 days ago and helped broker the leading clubs and the Rugby Football Union last May — become disenchanted very quickly. "He has a body of 14 strong-minded individuals to oversee," one club official said last night, "and there are times when they seem to be pulling in 14 different ways."

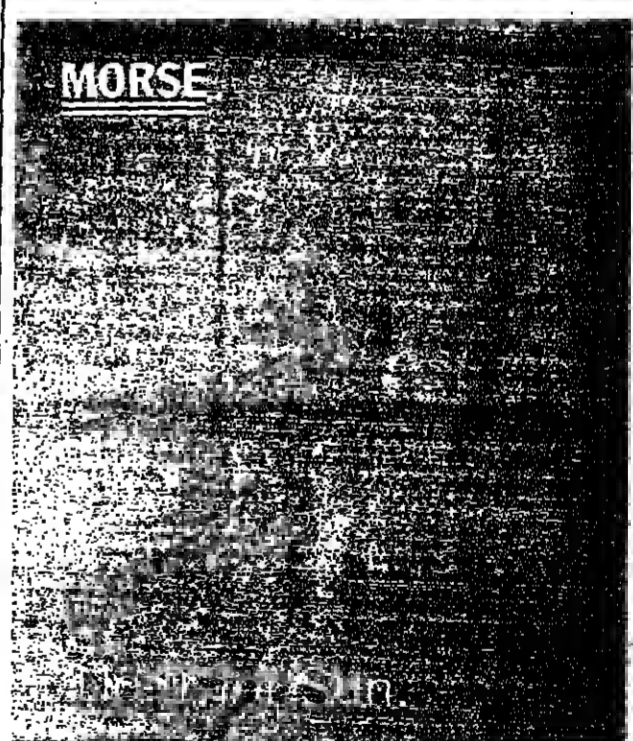
Ash's departure threw a wet blanket over the optimism that Allan Hosie, chairman of the Six Nations committee, attempted to strike at a press conference at Heathrow. Hosie perceived a degree of unity and, indeed, trust at the Six Nations meeting held on Monday, when representatives agreed a fast-track working

party on the proposed British league for 1999-2000. He confessed, however, that little would be achieved if the clubs could not be carried along by their governing bodies.

Ash, who will remain in post until the end of October, said: "Sadly I have found it increasingly difficult to fit my role as ERP and EFDR with my other business interests. Directorships of a wine business and a freighting group will seem child's play after trying to nurture professional rugby, but there will be questions asked at the board meeting of EFDR next Tuesday, not only about the loss of another chief executive but the circulation of a discussion document relating to the future of European competition.

Those who have seen the document contend that it does not address the clubs' fundamental complaint, which is with the structure of the organising body, European Rugby Cup Ltd. Instead, the clubs have established their own working party to consider the best combination of competitions in future.

Any development of the game in Europe must take account of the views of the leading clubs. Bernard Lapasset, president of the French federation, told his Six Nations colleagues, but there is a responsibility upon those clubs not to sustain their own isolation.



It's a fact.

Sun Microsystems has recognised our commitment to its products and technology: that's why Morse is Sun's Reseller of the Year. Again.

For example, our web site carries up-to-the-minute information about Sun products, specifications and prices, while regular clients benefit from our Web-based e-commerce system.

Call 0800 228888 to receive our No.1 for Sun! brochure, chock-full of facts about Morse.



Morse Computers  
 www.morse.com

صكنا من الامل